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THE CITY OF THE SULTAN:

AND DOMESTIC MANNERS OF THE TURKS,

IN 1836.

BY MISS PARDOE,

AUTHOR OF "TRAITS AND TRADITIONS OF PORTUGAL."
&c. &c. &c.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:
H. G. CLARKE AND CO., 66, OLD BAILEY.
1845.

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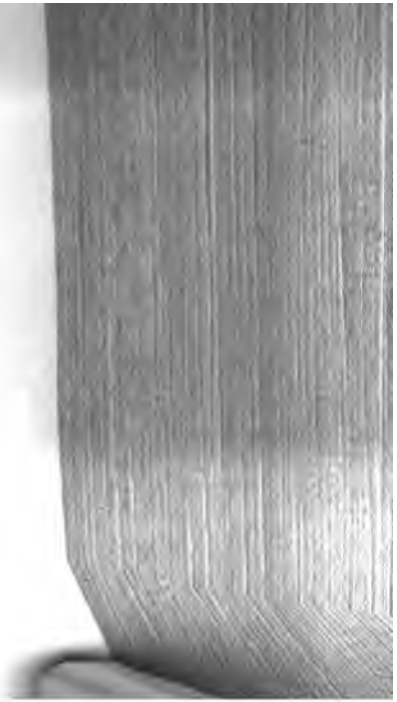

PREFACE.

In publishing the present work I feel that I should be deficient in self-justice, did I not state a few facts relatively to the numerous difficulties with which I have had to contend during its compilation.

The language of Turkey, in itself a serious impediment, from its total dissimilarity to every European tongue, naturally raises a barrier between the native and the stranger, which is to the last only partially removed by the intervention of a third person; who, acting as an interpreter, too frequently fritters away the soul of the conversation, even where he does not wilfully pervert its sense. But this drawback to a full and free intercourse with the natives, irritating and annoying as it is, sinks into insignificance, when compared with the myriad snares laid for the stranger (and, above all, for the literary stranger) by party-spirit and political prejudice. The *liberal*-minded and high-hearted *politician of Europe*, even while he is

straining every nerve, and exerting every energy, to support and strengthen the interests of his country, disdains to carry with him into private life the hatreds, the jealousies, and the suspicions, which, like rust on metal, mar the brightness of the spirit that harbours them. He does not reject a friend because his political tenets may be at variance with his own; nor overlook the amiable traits of his character, to dwell only upon his opposing prejudices and interests.

The height to which party-spirit is carried in Constantinople; or I should rather say, in the Frank quarter of Constantinople, would be laughable were it not mischievous. Even females are not free from the *malaria* which hovers like an atmosphere about the streets and "palaces" of Pera; and a traveller has not been domesticated a week among its inhabitants, ere he almost begins to believe that the destinies of the whole Eastern empire hang upon the breath of a dozen individuals. With one party, Russia is the common-sewer into which are poured all the reproach and the vituperation of indignant patriotism; with the other, England is the landmark towards which is pointed the finger of suspicion and defiance. All this may be very necessary, and very praiseworthy, as a matter of diplomacy; I suppose *that it is both the one* and the other. I have no

n to offer on the subject. I merely venture to ion the propriety of suffering such anti-social gs to intrude into the bosom of private life; to question the soundness of the judgment which ld universally create a bad man out of a rival liticlan; and make the opening of one door the nal for the closing of another. It is said that the ree plagues of Constantinople are Fire, Pestilence, d Dragomans; judging from what I saw and heard hile there, I should be inclined to add a fourth, and o designate it Politics. Certain it is, that the faubourg of Pera always reminded me of an ant-hill; with its jostling, bustling, and racing for straws and trifles; and its ceaseless, restless struggling and striving, to secure most inconsequent results.

That the great question of Eastern policy is a weighty and an important one, every thinking person must concede at once; but whether its final settlement will be advantageously accelerated by individual jealousies and individual hatreds is assuredly more problematical. "He who is not for me is against me," is the motto of every European resident in Turkey: for each, however incompetent he may be to judge of so intricate and comprehensive a subject, is nevertheless a loud and uncompromising *politician*. And, if the temporary *sojourner in the East* be resolved to be loud

to no *clique*, to pledge himself to no party, and to pursue a straight and independent path, as he would do in Europe, without lending himself to the views of either, he is certain to be suspected by both.

These are the briars which beset the way-side of the stranger in Turkey. He has not only to contend with the unaccustomed language and manners of the natives, to fling from him his European prejudices, and to learn to look candidly and dispassionately on a state of society, differing so widely from that which he has left; but when the wearied spirit would fain fall back, and repose itself for a while among more familiar and congenial habits, it has previously to undergo an ordeal as unexpected as it is irritating; and from which it requires no inconsiderable portion of moral courage to escape unshackled.

Such are the adventitious and unnecessary difficulties that have been gratuitously prepared for the Eastern traveller, and superadded to the natural impediments of the locality; and of these he has infinitely more reason to complain, than of the unavoidable obstacles which meet him at every step in his commerce with the natives. That the Turks as a people, and particularly the Turkish females, are shy of making the acquaintance of strangers, is most true; their *habits* and feelings do not lend themselves readily to

a familiar intercourse with Europeans; nor are they induced to make any extraordinary effort to overcome the prejudice with which they ever look upon a Frank, when they remember how absurdly, and even cruelly, they have been misrepresented by many a passing traveller, possessed neither of the time nor the opportunity to form a more efficient judgment.

When my father and myself left Europe, it was with the intention of visiting, not only Turkey, but also Greece and Egypt; and we accordingly carried with us letters to influential individuals, resident in each of those interesting countries, whose assistance and friendship would have been most valuable to us. And, for the two or three first months of our sojourn in Constantinople, while yet unwilling to draw deductions, and to trust myself with inferences, which might, and probably would, ultimately prove erroneous, I suffered myself to be misled by the assertions and opinions of prejudiced and party-spirited persons, and still maintained the same purpose. But, when awakened to a suspicion of the spirit-thrall in which I had been kept, I resolved to hazard no assertion or opinion which did not emanate from personal conviction; and I found that I could not prove an honest chronicler if I merely contented *myself with a hurried* and superficial *survey of a country constituted* [illegible] *Turkey.*

To this conviction must consequently be attribu
the fact that the whole period of my sojourn in
East was passed in Constantinople, and a part of
Minor. But my personal disappointment will be o
paid, should it be conceded that I have not failed
the attempt of affording to my readers a more just
complete insight into Turkish domestic life, than
have hitherto been enabled to obtain.

Bradenham Lodge, Bucks,
May 1837.

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THE

CITY OF THE SULTAN.

CHAPTER I.

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It was on the 30th of December, 1835, that we anchored in the Golden Horn; my long indulged hopes were at length realized; the Queen of Cities was before me, throned on her peopled hills, and the silver Bosphorus, garlanded with palaces, was flowing at her feet.

It was with difficulty that I could drag myself up deck after the night of intense suffering which I had passed in the Sea of Marmora; and, when I at length succeeded in so doing, the vessel was already under the walls of the Seraglio garden, and advancing rapidly towards her anchorage. The *atmosphere* was keen with snow; and *I beheld Stamboul for the* first time clad *in the ermine mantle of the sternest of seasons. Yet, even thus, the most powerful feeling* that urged

velled itself from the chaos of sensations which th upon me was one of unalloyed delight. How c be otherwise? I seemed to look on fairy-land— hold the embodiment of my wildest visions—to denizen of a new world.

Queenly Stamboul! the myriad sounds of her came to us mellowed by the distance; and, as we along, the whole glory of her princely port burst our view! The gilded palace of Mahmoud, w glittering gate and overtopping cypresses, among may be distinguished the buildings of the Serai soon passed; behind us, in the distance, was S looking down in beauty on the channel, whose reflected the graceful outline of its tapering mi and shrouded themselves for an instant in th shadows of its funereal grove. Galata was bes with its mouldering walls and warlike memorie the vessel trembled as the chain fell heavily in water, and we anchored in the midst of the cr shipping that already thronged the harbour. opposite shore clustered the painted dwellings o stantinople; the party-coloured garment of the hills"—the tall cypresses that overshadowed her and the stately plane-trees which more than r them in beauty, bent their haughty heads benea weight of accumulated snows. Here and there a of graceful minarets cut sharply against the sky; the ample dome of the mosque to which they bel and the roofs of the dwellings that nestled at thei lay steeped in the same chill livery. Eagerly did to distinguish those of St. Sophia, and the smal far more elegant Solimanië (the shrine of the Pr Beard), with its four minarets, and its cloistered and it was not without reluctance that I turned *to mark where the* thronging houses of Pera clom *magnificent profusion* the amphitheatre of hills *dominate the* treasure-laden port.

As my gaze wandered along the shore, and, passing by the extensive grove of cypresses that tower above the burying-ground, once more followed the course of the Bosphorus, I watched the waves as they washed the very foundation of the dwellings that skirt it, until I saw them chafing and struggling at the base of the barrack of Topp-hannè, and at intervals flinging themselves high into the air above its very roof.

To an European eye, the scene, independently of its surpassing beauty and utter novelty, possessed two features peculiarly striking; the extreme vicinity of the houses to the sea, which in many instances they positively overhang; and the vast number of aquatic fowl that throng the harbour. Sea-gulls were flying past us in clouds, and sporting like domestic birds about the vessel, while many of the adjoining roofs were clustered with them; the wild-duck and the water-hen were diving under our very stern in search of food; and shoals of porpoises were every moment rolling by, turning up their white bellies to the light, and revelling in safety amid the sounds and sights of a mighty city, as though unconscious of the vicinity of danger. How long, I involuntarily asked myself, would this extraordinary confidence in man be repaid by impunity in an English port? and the answer was by no means pleasing to my national pride.

As I looked round upon the shipping, the language of many lands came on the wind. Here the deep "Ship a-hoy!" of the British seaman boomed along the ripples; there, the shrill cry of the Greek mariner rang through the air; at intervals, the full rich strain of the dark-eyed Italian relieved the wild monotonous chant of the Turk; while the cry of the sea-boy from the rigging was answered by the stern brief tones *of the weather-beaten* sailor on the deck.

Every *instant a graceful caïque, with its* long sharp *prow and gilded ornaments, shot past the* ship: now,

freighted with a bearded and turbaned Turk, upon his carpet at the bottom of the boat, pipe and muffled closely in his furred pelisse, the v sonification of luxurious idleness; and attend red-capped and blue-coated domestic, who w times a thick-lipped negro, but more frequently eyed and mustachioed musselmaun—now tena group of women, huddled closely together, and the *yashmac*, or veil of white muslin, which c the face except the eyes and nose, and give wearer the appearance of an animated corpse; them, as they passed, languidly breathing out t monious Turkish, which in a female mouth i music.

Then came a third, gliding along like a naut its small white sail, and bearing a bevy of Gree large flashing eyes gleamed out beneath the unl *fez*, or cap of red cloth, with its purple silk t ornament of cut paper, bound round the head a lower classes, by a thick black shawl, tightly This was followed by a fourth, impelled by rowers, wherein the round hats and angular c a party of Franks forced your thoughts back country that you had left, only to be recalled instant by a freight of Armenian merchants from the tcharshees of Constantinople to their at Galata and Pera. As I looked on the fin nances, the noble figures, and the animated exp the party, how did I deprecate their shaven h the use of the frightful *calpac*, which I can appropriately describe than by comparing it to pots used in English kitchens, inverted! The pelisse, however, almost makes amends for t strous head-gear, as its costly garniture of sabl *ten*-skin falls back and reveals the robe of rich *the cachemire* shawl folded about the waist. Al *I was more struck* with the Armenian than th

costume; and there is a refinement and *tenue* about the wearers singularly attractive. Their well-trimmed mustachioes, their stained and carefully shaped eye-brows, their exceeding cleanliness—in short, their whole appearance, interests the eye at once; nor must I pass over without remark their jewelled rings, and their pipes of almost countless cost, grasped by fingers so white and slender that they would grace a woman.

While I am on the subject of costume, I cannot forbear to record my regret as I beheld in every direction the hideous and unmeaning *fez*, which has almost superseded the gorgeous turban of muslin and cachemire; indeed, I was nearly tempted in my woman-wrath to consider all the admirable reforms wrought by Sultan Mahmoud in his capital, overbalanced by the frightful changes that he has made in the national costume, by introducing a mere caricature of that worst of all originals—the stiff, starch, angular European dress. The costly turban that bound the brow like a diadem, and relieved by the richness of its tints the dark hue of the other garments, has now almost entirely disappeared from the streets; and a group of Turks look in the distance like a bed of poppies; the flowing robe of silk or of woollen has been flung aside for the ill-made and awkward surtout of blue cloth: and the waist which was once girdled with a shawl of cachemire, is now compressed by two brass buttons!

The Dervish, or domestic priest, for such he may truly be called, whose holy profession, instead of rendering him a distinct individual, suffers him to mingle like his fellow-men in all the avocations, and to participate in all the socialities of life; which permits him to read his offices behind the counter of his shop, and to bring up his family to the cares *and customs* of every-day life; and who *is bound only by his* own voluntary act *to a steady continuance in the* self-imposed duties *that he is at liberty to cast aside* when they become

irksome to him; the holy Dervish frequently passed u in his turn, seated at the bottom of his caïque, with a open volume on his knees, and distinguished from th lay-Turk by his *gendaf*, or high hat of grey felt. Ther came a group of Jews, chattering and gesticulating with their ample cloaks, and small dingy-coloured caps surrounded by a projecting band of brown and whit cotton, whose singular pattern has misled a modern traveller so far as to induce him to state that it i "a white handkerchief, inscribed with some Hebrew sentences from their law."

Thus far, I could compare the port of Constantinopl to nothing less delightful than poetry put into action The novel character of the scenery—the ever-shifting picturesque, and graceful groups—the constant flitting past of the fairy-like caïques—the strange tongues— the dark, wild eyes—all conspired to rivet me to th deck, despite the bitterness of the weather.

Evening came—and the spell deepened. We had arrived during the Turkish Ramazan, or Lent, and a the twilight gathered about us, the minarets of all th mosques were brilliantly illuminated. Nothing could exceed the magical effect of the scene; the darkness o the hour concealed the outline of the graceful shafts o these ethereal columns, while the circles of light which girdled them almost at their extreme height formed a triple crown of living diamonds. Below these depended (filling the intermediate space) shifting figures of fire, succeeding each other with wonderful rapidity and precision: now it was a house, now a group of cypresses; then a vessel, or an anchor, or a spray of flowers: and these changes were effected, as I afterwards discovered, in the most simple and inartificial manner. Cords are slung from minaret to minaret, from whence depend *others, to which the* lamps are attached; and the *raising or lowering of these* cords, according to a previous *design, produces the* apparently magic transitions which

render the illuminations of Stamboul unlike those of any European capital.

But I can scarcely forgive myself for thus accounting in so matter-of-fact a manner for the beautiful illusions that wrought so powerfully on my own fancy. I detest the spirit which reduces every thing to plain reason; and pleases itself by tracing effects to causes, where the only result of the research must be the utter annihilation of all romance, and the extinction of all wonder. The flowers that blossom by the wayside of life are less beautiful when we have torn them leaf from leaf asunder, to analyze their properties and to determine their classes, than when we first inhale their perfume, and delight in their lovely tints, heedless of all save the enjoyment which they impart. The man of science may decry, and the philosopher may condemn, such a mode of reasoning; but really, in these days of utilitarianism, when all things are reduced to rule, and laid bare by wisdom, it is desirable to reserve a niche or two unprofaned by "the schoolmaster," where Fancy may plume herself unchidden, despite the never-ending analysis of a theorizing world!

My continued indisposition compelled my father and myself to remain another day on board; but I scarcely felt the necessity irksome. All was so novel and so full of interest around me, and my protracted voyage had so thoroughly inured me to privations and inconvenience, that I was enabled to enjoy the scene without one regret for land. The same shifting panorama, the same endless varieties of sight and sound, occupied the day; and the same magic illusions lent a brilliancy and a poetry to the night.

Smile, Ye whose exclusiveness has girdled you with a fictitious and imaginary circle, *beyond which* ye have neither sympathies *nor sensibilities*—smile if ye will, as I *declare that when the moment came in* which I was *to quit the good brig that had borne us so bravely* through

storm and peril—the last tangible link between ourselves and the far land that we had loved and left—I almost regretted that I trod her snow-heaped and luggage-cumbered deck for the last time; and that, as the crew clustered round us, to secure a parting look and a parting word, a tear sprang to my eye. How impossible does it appear to me to forget, at such a time as this, those who have shared with you the perils and the protection of a long and arduous voyage! From the sturdy seaman who had stood at the helm, and contended with the drear and drenching midnight sea, to the venturous boy who had climbed the bending mast to secure the remnants of the shivered sail, every face had long been familiar to me. I could call each by name; nor was there one among them to whom I had not, on some occasion, been indebted for those rude but ready courtesies, which, however insignificant in themselves, are valuable to the uninitiated and helpless at sea.

On the 1st of January, 1836, we landed at the Custom House stairs at Galata, amid a perfect storm of snow and wind; nor must I omit the fact that we did so without "let or hindrance" from the officers of the establishment. The only inquiry made was, whether we had brought out any merchandize, and, our reply being in the negative, coupled with the assurance that we were merely travellers, and that our packages consisted simply of personal necessaries, we were civilly desired to pass on.

I could not avoid contrasting this mode of action in the "barbarous" East, with that of "civilized" Europe, where even your very person is not sacred from the investigation of low-bred and low-minded individuals, from whose officious and frequently impertinent contact you can secure yourself only by a bribe. Perhaps the contrast struck me the more forcibly that we had embarked from Marseilles, where all which concerns either

Douane or the Bureau de Santé is *à la rigueur*—
re you are obliged to pay a duty on what you take
of the city, as well as on what you bring into it—and
ay for a certificate of health to persons who do not
w that you have half a dozen hours to live!
rom the Custom House of Galata we proceeded up
ep ascent to Pera, the quarter of the Franks—the
s of diplomacy—where every lip murmurs "His Ex-
ncy," and secretaries, interpreters, and *attachés* are

"Thick as the leaves on Vallombrosa."

alas! on the 1st day of January, Pera, Galata, and
r environs, were one huge snowball. As it was
ay, the Turkish Sabbath, and, moreover, a Friday
ie Ramazan, every shop was shut; and the few
-passengers who passed us by hurried on as though
atient of exposure to so inclement an atmosphere.
ost of the streets are impassable for carriages, and
e sedan-chairs which supply, however imperfectly,
place of these convenient (and almost, as I had
rto considered, indispensable) articles are all pri-
property, we were e'en obliged to "thread our
way" as patiently as we could—now buried up
knees in snow, and anon immersed above our
in water, when we chanced to plunge into one of
uge holes which give so interesting an inequality
surface of Turkish paving.

rtheless, despite the difficulties that obstructed
gress, I could not avoid remarking the little
its built at intervals along the streets for the ac-
ation and comfort of the otherwise homeless
ich throng every avenue of the town. There
crouched down snugly, too much chilled to
us with the chorus of barking that they usually
travellers: a species of loud and inconvenient
ith which we were by no means sorry to dis-
addition to this shelter, food is every day

dispensed by the inhabitants to the vagrant a
who, having no specific owner, are, to use the ap
phraseology of genteel alms-asking, "wholly dep
on the charitable for support." And it is a s
fact that these self-constituted scavengers exe
kind of internal economy, which almost appears
ceed the boundaries of mere instinct; they hav
defined "walks," or haunts; and woe betide the
cur who intrudes on the privileges of his neigh
he is hunted, upbraided with growls and barks, b
all sides, even bitten in cases of obstinate cont
and universally obliged to retreat within his own
Their numbers have, as I was informed, greatly de
of late years, but they are still very considerable.

As we passed along, a door opened, and forth
the most magnificent-looking individual whom
saw: he had a costly cachemire twined about hi
his flowing robes were richly furred, and he tur
key in the lock with an air of such blended anxi
dignity, that I involuntarily thought of the
Shakspeare; and I expected at the moment
him exclaim, "Shut the door, Jessica, shut the
say!" But, alas! he moved away, and no swe
sica flung back the casement to reply.

CHAPTER II.

Introduction to Turkish Houses—Steep Streets—The Tandour—The Mangal—The Family—Female Luxurious Habits—The Ramazan—The Dining-Widow—The Dinner—The Turks not Gastronomical Hospitality—Ceremony of Ablution—The—Alarm in the Harem—The Prayer—Evening Puerile Questions—Opium—Primitive Painting—Beds—Avocations of a Turkish Lady—Oriental Shopping—Commercial Flirtations—The Sultana ain—A Turkish Carriage—The Tchibouques—Armenians—Greek Speculators—Perfumes and Embroi-

lready mentioned that we arrived at Con- during the Ramazan, or Lent; and my y was to pass a day of Fast in the interior of family.

cult, and in most cases impossible achieve- n European, was rendered easy to me by the ortly after our landing I procured an intro- a respectable Turkish merchant; and I had written to propose a visit to his harem than the most frank and cordial assurances of

lady of my acquaintance having offered to mpanion, and to act as my interpreter, over to Stamboul; and, after threading p and narrow streets, perfectly impassable s, entered the spacious court of the house at were expected, *and ascended* a wide flight of *ng to the harem, or women's* apartments, *minated in a large landing-place*, of about

thirty feet square, into which several rooms opened
either side, screened by curtains of dark cloth embro
ered with coloured worsted. An immense mirror fil
up a space between two of the doors, and a long passa
led from this point to the principal apartment of t
harem, to which we were conducted by a black slave.

When I say "we," I of course allude to Mrs. —
and myself, as no men, save those of the family, and t
physician, are ever admitted within the walls of a Tur
ish harem.

The apartment into which we were ushered was lar
and warm, richly carpeted, and surrounded on thr
sides by a sofa, raised about a foot from the groun
and covered with crimson shag; while the cushions th
rested against the wall, or were scattered at interv
along the couch, were gaily embroidered with go
thread and coloured silks. In one angle of the so
stood the *tandour*, a piece of furniture so unlike a
thing in Europe, that I cannot forbear giving a t
scription of it.

The tandour is a wooden frame covered with a coup
of wadded coverlets, for such they literally are, whi
are in their turn overlaid by a third and considerab
smaller one of rich silk: within the frame, which is
the height and dimensions of a moderately sized breal
fast table, stands a copper vessel, filled with the embe
of charcoal; and on the two sides that do not touc
against the sofa, piles of cushions are heaped upon th
floor to nearly the same height, for the convenience
those whose rank in the family does not authorize the
to take places on the couch.

The double windows, which were all at the upper en
of the apartment, were closely latticed; and at th
lower extremity of the room, in an arched recess, stoo
a classically-shaped clay jar full of water, and a co
vered goblet in a glass saucer. Along a silken cord, o
either side of this niche, were hung a number of na

me material raised on castors, and filled,
n the tandour, with charcoal.
consisted of the father and mother, the
n's wife, the daughter and her husband,
and adopted son. The ladies were lying
s, buried up to their necks under the
the tandour; and, as they flung them off
, I was struck with the beauty of the
se deep blue eyes, and hair of a golden
otally different from what I had expected
Turkish harem. Two glances sufficed to
it the mother was a shrew, and I had no
ently to revoke my judgment. The son's
, large, brilliant, black eyes, but her other
by no means pleasing, although she pos-
mmon with all her countrywomen, that
dvety skin, for which they are indebted to
se of the bath. To this luxury, in which
daily indulge, must be, however, attri-
t that their hair, in becoming bright and
strength, and compels them to the adop-

toes, in which they moved over the floor wi
greatest ease, dragging after them their *anter*
sweeping robes; but more frequently they dis
with even these, and walked barefoot about the h
Their upper dresses were of printed cotton
brightest colours—that of the daughter had
ground, with a yellow pattern, and was trimme
a fringe of pink and green. These robes, whi
made in one piece, are divided at the hip on eith
to their extreme length, and are girt about the
with a cachemire shawl. The costume is compl
winter by a tight vest lined with fur, which is ge
of light green or pink.

Their habits are, generally speaking, most lux
and indolent, if I except their custom of early
which, did they occupy themselves in any useful
ner, would be undoubtedly very commendable; b
they only add, by these means, two or three ho
ennui to each day, I am at a loss how to clas
Their time is spent in dressing themselves, and v
the position of their ornaments—in the bath—
sleep, which they appear to have as entirely at
beck as a draught of water; in winter, they have
nestle under the coverings of the tandour, or in s
to bury themselves among their cushions, and
minutes they are in the land of dreams. Inde
extraordinarily are they gifted in this respect, tha
not unfrequently engage their guests to take a na
the same *sang froid* with which a European lady
invite her friends to take a drive. Habits of in
have, however, made their way, in many instance
into the harem; the changes without have infl
the pursuits and feelings of the women; and utte
ness has already ceased to be a necessary attribute
high-bred Turkish female.

As it was the time of the Ramazan, neither
nor sweetmeats were handed to us, though the

, which we, however, declined,
Lent with them according to
e fasted, therefore, until about
hen the cry of the muezzin from
l that one of the outwatchers, of
yed for the purpose, had caught
. Instantly all were in motion;
gements had been so zealously
at not another second was lost;
ed dinner, we all followed her to
ere the table, if such I may call

feet square, totally unfurnished,
of the floor was spread a carpet,
den frame, about two feet in
mmense round plated tray, with
. In the centre of the tray was
ite basin, filled with a kind of
round it were ranged a circle of
, filled with sliced cheese, an-
weetmeats of every description:
tered spoons of box-wood, and
hite sherbet, whose rose-scented
apartment. The outer range of
with fragments of unleavened
ad portions of the Ramazan cake.

appeared, forgotten on the morrow; for the "disconsolate widow" had come forth in a pink vest and sky blue trowsers, with rings on her fingers and jewels in her turban, to seek the advice and assistance of the master of the house in securing some valuable shawl and sundry diamonds and baubles which she had possessed before her marriage, from the grasp of the deceased's relatives.

As soon as the serious business of the repast really commenced, that is, when we had each possessed ourselves of a cushion, and squatted down with our feet under us round the dinner-tray, having on our laps linen napkins of about two yards in length richly fringed, the room was literally filled with slaves, "black, white and gray," from nine years old to fifty.

Fish, embedded in rice, followed the side or rather circle saucers that I have already described; and of most of which I sparingly partook, as the only answer that I was capable of giving to the unceasing "Eat, eat, you are welcome," of the lady of the house. With the fish, the spoons came into play, and all were immersed in the same dish; but I must not omit to say that this custom is rendered less revolting than it would otherwise be, by the fact that each individual is careful should the *plat* be partaken of a second time (a rare occurrence, however, from the rapidity with which they are changed), always to confine herself to one spot. The meat and poultry were eaten with the fingers; each individual fishing up, or breaking away, what pleased her eye; and several of them tearing a portion asunder and handing one of the pieces to me as a courtesy, which, be it remarked, *par parenthèse*, I should joyfully have dispensed. Nineteen dishes, of fish, flesh, fowl, pastry, and creams, succeeding each other in the most heterogeneous manner—the salt following the sweet *and the stew* preceding the custard—were terminated *by a pyramid of pillauf*. I had the perseverance to

aborate culinary exhibition; an exertion which
r, by no means required of any one by the
e of Turkish courtesy.
omy is no science in the East, and *gourmands*
wn; the Osmanli only eat to live, they do not
; and the variety of their dishes originates in
re to provide against individual disgusts;
extreme rapidity with which they succeed
sufficiently demonstrates their want of in-
o indulge individual excess. The women
coffee, sherbet, or water; but some few
men are adopting the vices of civilized na-
becoming addicted to beverages of a more
ription. No person is expected to remain
onger at a Turkish table than suffices him to
neal; the instant that he has satisfied his
rises without comment or apology, washes
nd resumes his pipe or his occupation. Nor
ss over without comment the simple and
ospitality of the Turks, who welcome to
, be he rich or poor, every compatriot who
per to take a seat at it; the emphatic
"* is never coldly nor grudgingly uttered;
sselmauns extend this unostentatious greet-
a new comer, without reservation or limit,
me principle that they never find fault with
of food which may be served up. They
emselves only as the stewards of GOD, and
ly use the goods of life as a loan rather than
n; while they hold that they are bound to
heir superfluity to those who have been less

se from table, a slave presented herself, hold-
and strainer of *wrought metal*; a second
id *water over our hands from an* elegantly-

* *You are welcome.*

formed vase of the same materials; and a third handed to us embroidered napkins of great beauty, of which I really availed myself with reluctance.

Having performed this agreeable ceremony, we returned to the principal apartment, where our party received an addition in the person of a very pretty old *massaljhe*, or tale-teller, who had been invited to relieve the tedium of the evening by her narrations. This custom is very general during the Ramazan, and is a great resource to the Turkish ladies, who can thus recline in luxurious inaction, and have their minds amused without any personal exertion. Coffee was prepared at the mangal, and handed round: after which the elder lady seated herself on a pile of cushions placed upon the floor, and smoked a couple of pipes in perfect silence, and with extreme *gusto*, flinging out volumes of smoke that created a thick mist in the apartment.

I had just begun to indulge in a violent fit of coughing, induced by the density of this artificial atmosphere, when a slave entered to announce the intended presence of the gentlemen of the family; and in an instant the whole scene was changed. The two Turkish ladies whom I have already mentioned as being on a visit in the house, rushed from the room barefooted, in as little time as it would have required for me to disengage myself from the tandour: the less agile *massaljhe* covered her face with a thick veil, and concealed herself behind the door; the Juno-like daughter (one of the most majestic women I ever remember to have seen, although very far from one of the tallest) flung a handkerchief over her head, and fastened it beneath her chin, while the son's wife caught up a *feridjhe*, or cloak, and withdrew, muffled amid its folds, to her own *apartment*. The elder lady was the only one of the party *undisturbed* by the intelligence: she never raised her eyes *from the* carpet, but continued inhaling the aroma

of the "scented weed," gravely grasping her long pipe, her lips pressed against its amber mouth-piece, and her brilliant rings and diamond-studded bracelets flashing in the light.

In a few minutes, the aged father of the family was squatted down immediately opposite to my seat, smothered in furs, and crowned with the most stately-looking turban I had yet seen: on one side of him stood a slave with his chibouque, which his wife had just filled and lighted, and on the other his elder son, holding the little brass dish in which the pipe-bowl is deposited to protect the carpet. Near him, on another cushion, lay the tobacco-bag of gold-embroidered cachemire, from which the said son was about to regale himself, after having supplied the wants of his father; and a few paces nearer to the door reclined the handsome Soliman Effendi, the adopted child to whom I have already alluded.

While the party were refreshing themselves with coffee, which was shortly afterwards served to them, a cry from the minarets of a neighbouring mosque announced the hour of prayer; when the old man gravely laid aside his pipe, and, spreading a crimson rug above the carpet near the spot where he had been sitting, turned his face to the East, and began his devotions by stroking down his beard and falling upon his knees, or rather squatting himself in a doubled-up position which it were impossible to describe. For a while his lips moved rapidly, though not a sound escaped them; and then suddenly he prostrated himself three times, and pressed his forehead to the carpet, rose, and folding his arms upon his breast, continued his prayer—resumed after a brief space his original position, rocking his body slowly to and fro—again bent down—and repeated the whole of these ceremonies three times, concluding his orison by extending his open palms towards Heaven; after which, he once more slowly and reverentially passed

his hand down his beard, and, without uttering a syllable, returned to his seat and his pipe, while a slave folded the rug and laid it aside. I remarked that, at intervals, during the prayer, he threw out a long respiration, as though he had been collecting his breath for several seconds ere he suffered it to escape, but throughout the whole time not a single word was audible. The rest of the party continued to laugh, chat, and smoke quite unconcernedly, however, during the devotions of the master of the house, who appeared so thoroughly absorbed as to be utterly unconscious of all that was going on around him.

I ought not to have omitted to mention, that, on entering the harem, each of the gentlemen of the family had deposited on a table at the extremity of the apartment his evening offering; for no Turk, however high his rank, returns home for the night, when the avocations of the day are over, empty handed. It signifies not how trifling may be the value of his burthen,—a cluster of grapes, a paper of sweetmeats, or, among the lower orders, a few small fish or a head of salad,—every individual is bound to make an offering to the *Dei Penates*, and to fail in this duty is to imply that he is about to repudiate his wife.

The father of the eldest son, Usuf Effendi, had brought home Ramazan cakes; but Solimán Effendi deposited on the tandour a *boksha*, or handkerchief of clear muslin wrought with gold threads, and containing sweetmeats; among them were a quantity of Barcelona nuts, which, in Turkey, are shelled, slightly dried in the oven, and eaten with raisins, as almonds are in Europe. In the course of the evening, the elder lady resumed her place at the tandour; and, in the intervals of the conversation, she amused herself by burning one of the *nuts at a candle; and*, having reduced it to a black *and oily substance* with great care and patience, she

an art which [illegible] ed her to acquire.

estions were of the most puerile description —why I did not marry—whether I liked ople—if I could read and write, &c., &c.; ertinent comment on fashions and habits to om their own escaped them. On the co- were continually remarking how much I everything in Turkey inferior to what I had omed to in Europe: and they lost them- onder at the resolution that had decided me art of the world where I must suffer so many

Of course, I replied as politely as I could nplimentary comments; and my companion f being much fatigued with the exertions d made during the day, we determined to ur apartment, without waiting to partake of repast, which is served up between two and ck in the morning.

his period the Turks remain smoking and eir coffee, detailing news and telling stories, [illegible] which they are extremely partial,

at a given time, which is determined by the nu
envelopes that have to disengage themselves f
drug before it can act.

The apartment wherein we passed the night
cious and lofty; and the ceiling was lined with
on which a large tree in full leaf was painted
and, as this was the great ornament of the roo
moreover, considered as a model of ingenious in
one of the slaves did not fail to point out to us
canvass, instead of being tightly stretched, was
loosely on a slight frame, which, when the air
from the open windows, permitted an undula
tended to give to the tree the effect of reality.
think that I was ever more amused; for the l
resembled huge boa-constrictors much more th
thing connected with the vegetable kingdom, a
leaf was as large and as black as the crown of
hat.

Our beds were composed of mattresses laid o
the other upon the floor, and these were of t
costly description; mine being yellow satin l
with gold, and that of my companion violet-
velvet, richly fringed. A Turkish bed is arra
an instant: the mattresses are covered with a
silk gauze, or striped muslin (my own on this
was of the former material); half a dozen pl
various forms and sizes are heaped up at the he
richly embroidered muslin cases, through wh
satin containing the down is distinctly seen
couple of wadded coverlets are laid at the feet,
folded: no second sheet is considered necessar
coverlets are lined with fine white linen. Thos
were provided for us were of pale blue silk,
with rose-coloured flowers.

At the lower end of every Turkish room a
closets for the reception of the bedding; and t
no sooner ascertain that you have risen, th

f them enter the apartment, and in five minutes
stige of your couch has disappeared; you hurry
e bed to the bath, whence you cannot possibly
in less than two hours; and the business of the
hen generally terminated for a Turkish lady.
remains to be done is to sit under the covering
andour, passing the beads of a perfumed chaplet
through the fingers; arranging and rearrang-
head-dress and ornaments; or to put on the
e* and *feridjhe*,† and sally forth, accompanied
r three slaves, to pay visits to favourite friends;
n foot, in yellow boots reaching up to the swell
g, over which a slipper of the same colour is
or in an *araba*, or carriage of the country, all
ilding, and crimson cloth, nestled among cush-
d making more use of her eyes than any being
h save a Turkish woman would, with the best
ion in the world, be able to accomplish. Such
coquetry I never before witnessed as that of
kish ladies in the street. As the araba moves
long, the *feridjhe* is flung back to display its
ilk lining and bullion tassels; and, should a
f handsome men be clustered on the pathway,
tant is accidentally chosen for arranging the
c. The dark-eyed dames of Spain, accom-
as they are in the art, never made more use of
ceful veil than do the orientals of the jealous
c.

taste for "shopping"—what an excellent essay
the "*piquante* and *spirituelle*" Lady Morgan
n this universal feminine mania!—is as great
the eastern ladies as with their fair European
but it is indulged in a totally different manner.
tinople boasts no commercial palace like those
ell and James, or *Storr and Mortimer*; and still
Maradan Carson: no carriage draws up at the

* *Walking veil.* † *Cloak.*

door of an Ebers or a Sams for "the last new novel nor does a well-warmed and well-floored bazar tempt the satin-slippered dame to wander among avenues glittering gewgaws and elaborated trifles. The carriage of the veiled Osmanli stops at the door of some merchant who has a handsome shopman: and, the name of the latter having been previously ascertained Sadak or Mustapha, as the case may be, is ordered by the *arabajhe*, or coachman, to exhibit to his mistress some article of merchandize, which he brings accordingly; and, while the lady affects to examine the quality, and to decide on its value, she enters into conversation with the youth, playing upon him meanwhile the whole artillery of her fine eyes. The questions generally runs nearly thus:—"What is your name?" "How old are you?"—"Are you married?"—"Were you ever in love?"—and similar misplaced and childish questions. Should the replies of the interrogated person amuse her, and his beauty appear as great on a nearer view as when seen from a distance, the merchandize is objected to, and the visit repeated frequently, ere the fastidious taste of the purchaser can be satisfied.

Nor are women of high rank exempt from this intricate fancy, which can only be accounted for by the belief that, like caged birds occasionally set free, they do not know how to use their liberty; the Sultana Haybétoullah, sister to his Sublime Highness the Light of the Ottoman Empire, is particularly attached to this extraordinary *passetemps*.

The following morning we started on an exploring expedition, accompanied by the closely-veiled and heavily-draped "Juno," and attended by her nurse and child, and her quaintly-habited footman; and, the carriage could not approach the house by a considerable distance, owing to the narrowness and steepness of the streets in that quarter of the city (which

we were
, upon the same principle that, as the
ould not go to Mahomet, Mahomet was
go to the mountain.
cast my eyes on the carriage, I had an
a of that which the fairy godmother of
reated for her favourite out of a pumpkin.
s that of a small covered waggon; its
all crimson cloth, blue silk fringe, and
its inside precisely resembled a cake of
ead. Four round looking-glasses, just suf-
e to reflect the features, were impannelled
of the doors; and in the place of windows
lattices, so closely made that our position
reverse of cheerful; and, as I found it,
uite impossible to breathe freely, these
flung back despite the cold; and, this
being made, I established myself very
on the satin cushions, with my feet doubled
la Turque, amid the piled-up luxuries of
mbroidery.
visit was to the Tcharchis, or, as Euro-
ome inexplicable reason have the habit of
n, the "bazars"—the word bazar literally
market—and, as the carriage rattled under
my first feeling was that of extreme

impression is one of wonder at the hyperboles have been lavished on them by travellers, and th called-for ecstasies of tour-writers.

The Tcharchis are like a little commercial roofed in; each street being appropriated to one cular trade or calling, and presenting relative d of attraction and luxury; from the diamond chant's counter to the cushions of the shawl an menders.

The Beizenstein is wonderfully rich in jewels in order to witness the display of these you must be likely to become, a purchaser; as only a few those of comparatively small value, are exposed glass cases which ornament the counters. Near whole of the jewellers are Armenians, as well money-changers, who transact business in their i diate vicinity. Indeed, all the steady commerce great scale in the capital may be said to be, with slight exceptions, in the hands of the Armenians have the true, patient, plodding, calculating sp trade; while the wilder speculations of hazardou ambitious enterprise are grasped with avidity l more daring and adventurous Greeks; and hence the fact, for which it is at first sight difficult to ac that the most wealthy and the most needy of the chants of Stamboul are alike of that nation: whil rarely see an Armenian either limited in his mea obtrusive in his style.

In the street of the embroiderers, whose stalls m very gay appearance, being hung all over with tob bags, purses, and *coiffures*, wrought in gold and we purchased a couple of richly-worked handker used by the ladies of the country for binding u hair after the bath, and which are embroidered *taste and skill* truly admirable.

Thence we drove to the shoe bazar, where sl *worked with* seedpearls, and silver and gold

next claimed our attention, and their
ed a miniature embodiment of "Araby
the atmosphere is one cloud of perfume.
fully enabled to understand *l'embarras*
or all the sweets of the East and the
us at once, from the long and slender
le Cologne, to the small, gilded, closely-
le of attar-gul. Nor less luxurious was
: of the spice bazar, with its pyramids of
s of cinnamon, and its bags of mace;
porcelain dealers allured us into their
by a dazzling display, comprising every
ent and modern china; silks, velvets,
and gold gauze, in their turn, invited
direction; and, in short, I left the
aching eyes, and a very confused im-
great mart of luxury and expense.
fatiguing day; and I was scarcely sorry
ade farewell to the hospitable family,
lly and courteously received us as guests,
mbark on board our caique, and in ten

CHAPTER III.

Turning Dervishes—Appearance of the Tekiè—The Mausoleum—Duties of the Dervishes—Chapel of the Convent—The Chief Priest—Dress of the Brotherhood—Melancholy Music—Solemnity of the Service—Mistakes of a Modern Traveller—Explanation of the Ceremony—The Prayer—The Kiss of Peace—Appearance of the Chapel—Religious Tolerance of the Turks—The French Renegade—Sketch of Halet Effendi, the Founder of the Tekiè.

I PAID two visits to the convent (if such, indeed, it may be termed) of Turning, or, as they are commonly called in Europe, Dancing Dervishes, which is situated opposite the Petit Champ des Morts, descending towards Galata. The court of the Tekiè is entered by a handsomely ornamented gate; and, having passed it you have the cemetery of the brethren on your left hand, and the gable of the main building on your right. As you arrive in front of the convent, the court widens, and in the midst stands a magnificent plane-tree of great antiquity, carefully railed in; while you have on one side the elegant mausoleum in which repose the superiors of the order, and on the other the fountain of white marble, roofed in like an oratory, and enclosed on all its six sides from the weather, where the Dervishes perform their ablutions ere they enter the chapel. The mausoleum is of octagonal form, the floor being raised two steps in the centre, leaving a space all round, just sufficiently wide for one person to pass along. The sarcophagi are covered with plain clay *coloured cloth*; and at the head of each tomb is placed *the graf*, or Dervishes' hat, encircled by a clay

on this the brethren kneel during the pr
the centre of the floor is so highly polished
tual friction, that it resembles a mirror,
ls are united by nails with heads as larg
ng, to prevent accidents to the feet of the D
ng their evolutions. A bar of iron descen
ally from the centre of the domed roof,
nsverse bars are attached, bearing a vast n
ass lamps of different colours and sizes; a
any of the pillars, of which I counted four-a
pporting the dome, are hung frames, wh
re inscribed passages from the Prophet.

Above the seat of the superior, the
founder of the Tekiè is written in gold on a b
in immense characters. This seat consis
carpet, above which is spread a crimson
this the worthy principal was squatted wh
in an ample cloak of Spanish brown, w
ing sleeves, and his geulaf, or high hat c
circled with a green shawl. I pitied h
was turned towards the glorious Bosp
distinctly seen through the four large
extremity of the chapel, flashing in th
slender minarets and lordly mosques of
ing out in the distance.

One by one, the Dervishes entered
ing profoundly at the little gate of
their places on the mat, and, bendi
kissed the ground; and then, foldi
on their breasts, remained buried
eyes closed, and their bodies swi
fro. They were all enveloped i
coloured cloth with pendent sle
geulafs, which they retained d
service.

I confess that the impression
of Dancing Dervi

nsequence, quite unprepared
ibition of their religious rites
hose who are not predeter-
th in every sectarian pecu-
s, broken only by the breath
oly wailing of the muffled
to send forth their voice of
d, in subdued sorrowing, like
ngels over fallen mortality;
self-forgetfulness of the com-
ast their eyes over the crowds
; the deep, rich chant of the
very contrast afforded by the
e in which they thus meekly
er, with their own calm and
htened the effect of the scene,
resumption and worldliness of
ght a jest in the very sanctuary

ed with an extemporaneous
priest, to which the attendant
rms folded upon their breasts,
he ground. At its conclusion,
to the earth; and the orchestra
peculiarly wild and melancholy
nlike any other music that I
the full voices of the brethren
he effect was thrilling. now the
he exhausted breath of a depart-
they swelled once more into a
ason that seemed scarce earthly.
bout a minute succeeded, when
was resumed, and the Dervishes,
earth, followed their superior
enclosure; *bowing down* twice
he name of their Founder, sus-
of the high priest. This reve-
out removing their folded arms

from their breasts—the first time on the side by which they approached, and afterwards on that opposite, which they gained by slowly revolving on the right foot, in such a manner as to prevent their turning their backs towards the inscription. The procession was closed by a second prostration, after which, each Dervish, having gained his place, cast off his cloak, and such as had walked in woollen slippers withdrew them, and, passing solemnly before the chief priest, they commenced their evolutions.

I am by no means prepared, nor even inclined, to attempt a Quixotic defence of the very extraordinary and *bizarre* ceremonial to which I was next a witness; but I cannot, nevertheless, agree with a modern traveller in describing it as "an absurdity." That it does not accord with our European ideas of consistent and worthy worship is not only possible, but certain; yet I should imagine that no one could feel other than respect for men of irreproachable character, serving God according to their means of judgment.

The extraordinary ceremony which gives its name to the Dancing, or, as they are really and much more appropriately called, the Turning Dervishes—for nothing can be more utterly unlike dancing than their evolutions—is not without its meaning. The community first pray for pardon of their past sins, and the amendment of their future lives; and then, after a silent supplication for strength to work out the change, they figure, by their peculiar and fatiguing movements, their anxiety to "shake the dust from their feet," and to cast from them all worldly ties.

As I could not reconcile myself to believe that the custom could have grown out of mere whim, I took some pains to ascertain its meaning; and also visited *the chapel* a second time during its observance, in order *to ascertain* whether the ceremonies differed on different *days, but I remarked* no change.

Immediately after passing with a solemn reverence,

twice performed, the place of the High Priest, who remained standing, the Dervishes spread their arms, and commenced their revolving motion; the palm of the right hand being held upwards, and that of the left turned down. Their under-dresses (for, as I before remarked, they had laid aside their cloaks) consisted of a jacket and petticoat of dark-coloured cloth, that descended to their feet; the higher order of brethren being clad in green, and the others in brown, or a sort of yellowish-gray; about their waists they wore wide girdles, edged with red, to which the right side of the jacket was closely fastened, while the left hung loose: their petticoats were of immense width, and laid in large plaits beneath the girdle, and, as the wearers swung round, formed a bell-like appearance; these latter garments, however, are only worn during the ceremony, and are exchanged in summer for white ones of lighter material.

The number of those who were "on duty," for I know not how else to express it, was nine; seven of them being men, and the remaining two mere boys, the youngest certainly not more than ten years of age. Nine, eleven, and thirteen are the mystic numbers, which, however great the strength of the community, are never exceeded; and the remaining members of the brotherhood, during the evolutions of their companions, continue engaged in prayer within the enclosure. These on this occasion amounted to about a score, and remained each leaning against a pillar: while the beat of the drum in the gallery marked the time to which the revolving Dervishes moved, and the effect was singular to a degree that baffles description. So true and unerring were their motions, that, although the space which they occupied was somewhat circumscribed, they never once *gained upon each other*: and for five minutes *they continued twirling* round and round, *as though impelled by machinery*, their pale,

passionless countenances perfectly immobile, the slightly declined towards the right shoulder, a inflated garments creating a cold, sharp air chapel, from the rapidity of their action. At mination of that period, the name of the Proj curred in the chant, which had been uninterm the gallery; and, as they simultaneously pause folding their hands upon their breasts, bent dow verence at the sound, their ample garments about them at the sudden check, and gave the moment, the appearance of mummies.

An interval of prayer followed; and the sam mony was performed three times; at the termin which they all fell prostrate on the earth, whe who had hitherto remained spectators flung thei over them, and the one who knelt on the lef Chief Priest rose, and delivered a long prayer into sections with a rapid and solemn voice, pro the last word of each sentence by the utterance —ha—ha"—with a rich depth of octave that w have disgraced Phillips.

This prayer was for "the great ones of the e the magnates of the land—all who were "in a over them;" and at each proud name they bow heads upon their breasts, until that of the Sul mentioned, when they once more fell flat u ground, to the sound of the most awful how heard.

This outburst from the gallery terminated the of the orchestra; and the superior, rising to hi while the others continued prostrate, in his turn for a few instants; and then, taking his stan the crimson rug, they approached him one by o clasping his hand, pressed it to their lips and fi When the first had passed, he stationed himself *right of the superior*, and awaited the arriva *second, who, on* reaching him, bestowed on him

by gently stroking down the beard.
e final act of the exhibition; and, the
g slowly and silently traversed the en-
seconds the chapel was empty, and the
used at the portal in reclaiming their
d slippers.

hitherto seen such picturesque groups as
onged the Dervishes' chapel on my second
I ever witness more perfect order in any
y. A deep stillness reigned throughout
nony, only broken by the sobs of a middle-
stood near me, and who was so much
he saddening wail of the orchestra that
estrain his tears; a circumstance by no
non in this country, where all ranks are
eptible to the influence of music.

of the edifice was a perfect picture, of
erly-clad Dervishes occupied the centre;
erior circle was peopled with groups of
ir coarse wrapping coats and red caps;
s in claret-coloured pelisses, richly furred
f Mahomet with their green turbans

apostles; every order has its peculiar constitution, d fering from the dogmas of simple Islamism; but th are universally venerated by Musselmauns, despite th sectarian prejudices. They are generally versed astrology and music; exorcise sufferers from witchcr and the evil eye; and are always of quiet and subm sive manners, never mingling either in the intrigues the court, or the cabals of the Ulémas.

It is not surprising that the Turks should venera their own Dervishes, when they not only tolerate, l even respect, the Christian monks, and regard th monasteries as holy places, bearing the names of sai and inhabited by men wholly devoted to God. To s a height, indeed, do they carry this reverence, that th permit the communities of several convents built the charming little group of islands, called "Prin Islands," situated in the Propontis, not more than t leagues from Constantinople, to be summoned to th chapel to prayer by the ringing of bells: a privil which is not accorded to any Christian church devo to a general congregation; but perhaps the great proof that can be adduced of their veneration for ligious societies exists in the fact that in the mausole of the principal Tekiè at Iconium lies one of the m celebrated of Musselmaun saints, Mollah Hunkiar, a beside him a Christian monk, to whom he had been tenderly attached during his life, that he desired in will that they should not be separated after dea The two tombs still exist; and what renders the an dote still more worthy of record, is the circumsta that it is the Chèïk or Abbot of this very monast who has the privilege of girding on the sword of Sultan in the Mosque of Eyoub, on his accession to Ottoman throne.

The Turks do not consider their women worthy *become Dervishes*, but they, nevertheless, respect

Christian nuns; and a somewhat curious proof to this effect was given in 1818, on the receipt, by the Sultan and his favourite minister, Halet Effendi, of two petitions drawn up by a sisterhood at Genoa, in which were set forth the injuries done to their convent by the French Republicans; terminating with a prayer to "his very pious Highness" to send to them, as a present, three Turkey carpets to cover the floor of their chapel, one of which was to be crimson, a second purple, and the third green; and in return they promised to pray for the health, prosperity, and glory of the august head of the Ottoman Empire. The Sultan gallantly acceded to the request; and the compatriots of Roxalana received with the least possible delay the magnificent donation by which a Musselmaun emperor contributed to the adornment of a temple dedicated to Christian worship.

In the cemetery of the Tekiè at Pera lies the body of the Marquis de Bonneval, a French renegade, who died a Pasha; and the stone slab yet remains there which once covered the head of Halet Effendi, the founder of the convent—built, as I have omitted to mention, entirely of marble. The head of the Effendi has, however been removed to a less sacred place, and has found a traitor's grave.

Halet Effendi, once the favourite of the Sultan, was the cause of the Greek insurrection, which he instigated to conceal his own disloyal views. Having, by his intrigues, caused the appointment of Michael Suzzo to the principality of Moldavia, and having been reproached with the disaffection of Suzzo towards his Imperial master, the minister, who was responsible for the conduct and loyalty of his Greek *protégé*, boldly replied that the disaffection towards the Sultan was not that of Suzzo *individually, but of his* whole nation; an assertion which he immediately proceeded to bear out

by exciting the Greeks covertly to rebellion; and he was so well seconded by his creature, that, when Ypsilanti reared his standard in the provinces, Suzzo joined his banner; and the insurrection in the Morea, and the revolt of the Greeks in Constantinople, with the murder of the Patriarch, were the fearful consequences of the rebellious coalition; a treason which Mahmoud visited on his favourite with a sentence of exile to Iconia; giving him, however, at the same time, an autograph letter, in which he pledged himself to respect both his life and property; but, after the lapse of a few years, repenting an act of clemency so misplaced, the Sultan despatched a *Capedjee-basha*, * furnished with a firman of recall, to his banished courtier, who found Halet Effendi at Iconia, and presented his credentials. The exile, overjoyed at so sudden and unlooked-for a change in his fortunes, lost no time in preparing for his return to Constantinople; but he had not long confided himself to the keeping of the Capedjee-basha when the bow-string terminated his existence; and the executioner hastened back to Stamboul, carrying along with him the head of his victim.

This ghastly memorial of their benefactor was consigned, at their urgent request, to the Dervishes of Pera, who buried it in their grave-yard, beneath the small slab of stone, which, in a Turkish ceremony, indicates to the initiated that the deceased above whom it is placed has perished by violence; but it had not lain there more than a few days, when the Sultan chanced to inquire how it had been disposed of, and hearing that it had received burial at this Tekiè, of whose order, entitled Mevlavies, he is himself a member (and whose chapel, in which he formerly performed his evolutions, he still frequents, although in private; occupy-

* Executioner.

ing, on his visits, one of the latticed closets), he ordered that it should be immediately disinterred and carried to Balata, where the common sewers of the city empty themselves into the Bosphorus. This was accordingly done; and the turban-crested pillar that surmounts the slab now only serves to indicate the spot where rested for a few brief days the dishonoured head of Halet Effendi.

CHAPTER IV.

Merchants of Galata — Palaces of Pera — Picturesque Style Building—The Perotes—Social Subjects—Greeks, Europ and Schismatic—Ambassadorial Residences—Entrée of Embassies — The Carnival—Soirées Dansantes—The Austr Minister — Madame le Baronne — The Russian Minister Madame de Boutenieff—The Masked Ball—Russian Sup macy—The Prussian Plenipotentiary—The Sardinian Cha d'Affaires—Diplomacy Unhoused—Society of Pera.

NEITHER Frank nor Christian is allowed to inha the "City of the Faithful;" and the faubourg of Pe situated on the opposite side of the port, is consequen the head-quarters of the *élite* of European socie Galata, which skirts the shore of the Bosphorus at t base of the hill on which Pera is built, numbers amo its inhabitants many very respectable merchants, wh avocations demand their continual presence; but P is the dwelling-place of the *beau-monde*—the seat fashion—the St. James's of the capital. Here ev thing social is *en magnifique:* the residences attached the different legations glory in the imposing design tions of "palaces;" the gloomy *magazins* of the E risian *modistes* are as dear and as dirty as can be d sired; all the *employés* of diplomacy throng the n row, steep, and ill-paved streets; while the fair Gre look down upon them from their bay-windows, pr jecting far beyond the façade of the building; a the bright-eyed Armenians peer from their latti "all-seeing, but unseen." The quaintly-coloured hou *looking like* tenements of painted pasteboard, appear

make them meet; and are pic-
ription, as they advance and re-
rnal order, regularity, and pro-

ion of European society, I must
nat the Perotes, or natives of Pera,
s much Franks as though they
rtured on the banks of the Thames
our expression of amusement at
ion would inevitably give great
his point, therefore, as one which
ment, I shall simply divide society
lomatic and the scandalous—pre-
it requires a delicate touch to
are so intimately interwoven.
entrée of the several embassies
while those who have not, exercise
l prerogative; and certain it is
the population of Pera is a great
which would render an official
ork of supererogation. "Not a
ound," but in half an hour every
knows by whom it was plucked;
with a raciness and a zest that
ne of a Sunday paper.
xists among the Greeks, on which
t; the Greek Catholics consider
ins, while the schismatic Greeks
rivilege, of which the former are

of a few weeks, you can readily
of every female whom you en-
of Pera. The fair Perotes, indeed,
cloak, and the shawl, which form
the genuine European gentle-
less, it is impossible not to dis-

tinguish them at a glance. An insurmountable taste for bright colours, an indescribable peculiarity in the adjustment of their toilets, at once mark the Perote; while the dark-eyed Greek is known by her wide-spreading turban of gauze or velvet, over which is flung a lace veil, which, falling low upon the back and shoulders, leaves the face almost entirely uncovered.

Since the great fire of Pera, the Ambassadors of England and France have resided at Therapia, a pretty village on the banks of the Bosphorus, near the mouth of the Black Sea; but the Internuncio of Russia, the Ministers of Austria and Prussia, and the Chargé d'Affaires of Sardinia and Holland, still inhabit the town during the winter months. The Austrian palace, however, is the only one that now remains, the other diplomatic establishments being compressed into dwelling-houses; thus the Russian minister inhabits a mansion in the High Street, and the Dutch Chargé d'Affaires resides next door to us.

The *entrée* of the embassies is peculiarly easy to the resident Europeans, as their number is so limited that *les grands convenances* are almost necessarily laid aside, and their Excellencies super-eminently tolerant with regard to the rank of their guests. Thus it is somewhat startling to a traveller, accustomed to the exclusive circles of Paris and London, to find, not only merchants and their wives at the diplomatic *soirées*, but even the head clerks and their fair partners. It is true that the mode of reception has gradations of graciousness,

> "Small by degrees, and beautifully less;"

but this is mere matter of individual feeling and power of endurance; the fact remains unaltered.

The Carnival had this year resumed its gaiety; men's *minds had begun* to cast off the panic occasioned by

lc conflagration which a year or two previously
st made the town a waste, and nearly ruined
he inhabitants whose property consisted chiefly

Austrian palace there were balls every Sun-
ughout the Carnival, where mustachios and
ic buttons were rife. The never-ending cotillon,
mazurka, the quadrille, and the waltz, were
opular; and I have danced the first with a
he second with a Russian, the third with
man, and the fourth with a German, during
e of the evening.

aron de Stürmer, the Austrian minister, is
ty years of age, partially bald, and remark-
ve-looking when not excited; but his ad-
peculiarly agreeable, and his smile like

ne la Baronne is a good specimen of the pre-
ol of Parisian breeding; her pride is blended
fulness, and her courtesy is as gracious as it is

Although *tant soit peu precieuse*, she is per-
e from pedantry, and is a delightful con-
ist. She has memories of Napoleon at St.
where she resided for several years; anecdotes,
s and political; those well-worded and softly-
ed compliments which seat you upon velvet;
ve all, that air of genuine *laissez aller insou-*
hich no woman save a Parisian ever thoroughly

I am indebted to the elegant hospitality of
for many of the most pleasant hours that I
the Frank circle at Pera.

Boutenieff, the Russian minister, has a face
or the first five minutes, baffles you by its con-
y expression; there is a character of bene-
and gentleness *about the forehead* and eyes
acts, while the subtle curve of the lip repulses

by its cast of craft and caution; his conver
easy, courtly, and pleasing; and his unremit
humour and affability render him universally
in society. Madame de Boutenieff, who is h
wife, is young, graceful, and lively; an indu
dancer, and a fascinating hostess; and, more
niece of Nesselrode.

The *soirées dansantes* at the Russian pala
nated with a masked ball, which worthily w
the Carnival, and was sustained with great spi
fair hostess herself, with two ladies attache
legation, and the wife of the French chancel
sonated angels, who were led into the ball-
a *parti carré* of devils, embodied by four of
sian secretaries. Some of our politicians will
smile at the conceit, nor can I forbear to s
propriety of the fancy; for truly, when I con
number of *attachés* to the Russian legation,
pared with that of the other powers at this co
inclined to allow that "their name is legion."

Even in a ball-room the Russian supremac
pably evident; their number, their politic
their never-ceasing efforts at popularity, e
forgotten for a moment. There is diplomacy
action, in every look, in every tone; and
self-gratulatory, quiet species of at-home-ne
where and with everybody, which shows you
that they are quite at ease, at least, for the pr

Exquisite, in the most wide acceptation of t
in their costume, affectedly refined and aristo
their manners—*acharnés pour la danse*—"*p
moitié de leur temps à rien faire, et l' autre
faire des riens*," the *attachés* of M. de Boute
wards of thirty in number, are as busily em
turning heads and winning hearts, as though
stake which they came here to play were
secondary object of their mission.

Count Königsmark, the Prussian minister, is a hi
bred and accomplished gentleman: distinguished
that calm and graceful *tenue* that sits so well on
of rank, and which is the most becoming attribute a
of mental and of social aristocracy.

The Sardinian Chargé d'Affaires, General Montig
is of very retiring habits, and mixes little in gen
society; but he is a person of considerable acquireme
and an indefatigable sportsman. His domestic hist
is a little romance, and may serve to account in a g
measure for his love of retirement, and the hermit-
seclusion of his wife. Having made a *mariage d'in
nation*, which was considered by the Sardinian cour
be incompatible with his rank and position in soci
he was sent into honourable exile to Smyrna, as Cha
d'Affaires, whence he was a short time since remo
to Constantinople; where, as I before remarked, h
rarely met with amid the Perote crowd that fills
ambassadorial ball-rooms.

The other foreign ministers play a comparati
insignificant *rôle* in society; as, since the destruc
of the several diplomatic residences in the great
they have been compelled to inhabit houses which
not calculated for reception; and it would app
as though they are likely to be long situated th
the only palace in process of restoration being tha
Russia. Here again is asserted the autocracy of
North: the English palace is in ruins, and para
are wreathing, like emerald-coloured snakes, about
tottering walls; Holland, France, all save Austria,

"Driven from their parch'd and blacken'd halls."

The evil is general; but the remedy has been appl
as yet, only in one instance.

Close the doors of the diplomatic residences,
little more can *be said for the European* society
Pera: *it is about on a par with that* of a third-

provincial town in England. *Ennui* succeeds to curiosity, and indifference to *ennui*; and you gladly step into your caïque, or your araba; or, better still, spring into your saddle, to recreate yourself among scenes of beauty and magnificence, and to escape from "the everlasting larum" of "rounded sentences which tend to nothing."

CHAPTER V.

Carnival—Kassim Pasha—The Marine Barrack—The —Palace of the Capitan Pasha—Turkish Ships and Sailors—More Mistakes—Aqueduct of Justinian—i—The Arsenal—The "Sweet Waters"—The Fanar r of a Greek House—Courteous Reception—Patriastoms—Greek Ladies at Home—Confectionery and A Greek Dinner—Ancient and Modern Greeks—A ds on Education—National Politeness—The Logothett —His Politics—Sketch of his Father—His Domestic - A Greek Breakfast—The Morning after a Ball—ogress towards Civilization—Parallel between the the Greek.

k Carnival extends three days beyond that of peans; and such being the case, we gladly n invitation to a ball to be given by a wealthy merchant, resident at the Fanar, or Greek Constantinople; and I embarked in a caique, ather, under one of those bright spring suns ake the Bosphorus glitter like a plate of teel.

k boat at Kassim Pasha, in the yard of the rrack; an extensive block of building, equally le for its tawdry fresco-painted walls, and d windows; and close beside the Admiralty, king edifice in the Russian taste, elaborately ed throughout its exterior, and adorned with on three of its sides. The *rez de chaussez* partments appropriated to the principal perne establishment, and *public offices* for the n of *business*. *The next range* are sacred to *who occasionally passes a morning* at Kassim

Pasha, inspecting the progress of the vessels of war building; and from the windows of his saloons lo down upon the line of battle ships in the harbour.

On a height a little in rear of the Admiralty the picturesque remains of the palace that was for inhabited by the Capitan Pasha; of which two long of grated arches still exist nearly perfect, having the effect of an aqueduct; while a little clust towers, crowning the grass-grown acclivity, add a interesting feature to the ruin.

On all sides of the caïque towered a lordly with its bristling cannon, and painted or gilt stern lery, lying peacefully at anchor in the land-l harbour; while the largest frigate in the world busily preparing for sea as we passed under her and her deck was all alive with men, in their red and close blue jackets; but I fear that the blue ja of England would scarce seek to claim brother with the tars of Turkey, for they have, in sooth, "lubberly" look with them; and it is commonl marked that the Sultan has some of the finest vess the world, and some of the worst sailors.

As this was the first day of unclouded sunshi which I had crossed the port, I looked around order to discover the "gilded domes" of wh modern traveller has spoken; but, alas!—the must be told—not a mosque in Stamboul has a g dome; and the only approach to such a gorgeous that I could discover were the gilded spires o minarets of Sultan Mahmoud's mosque at Topp-ha but, *en revanche*, the eye lingered long on the r Justinian's aqueduct, which rises hoar and dark the clustering houses of the city, spanning the two against which it rests, as with the grasp of centur upon the glittering pinnacles of the Serai, flashin *amid the tall* cypresses that hem them in—and *elegant, but* nearly untenanted, Seraglio itself,

nd the extensive outbuildings of the Arsenal,
und the shore to the very extremity of the
l only terminate at the point of the "Sweet
where a lovely river empties itself into the
and gives its name to the locality.
minutes we were at the Panar, and landed on
terrace washed by the waters of the port; and
ore we had passed into the garden to which it
, and thence into the house of the hospitable
ho had offered us a home for the night.
traversed an extensive hall paved with stone,
hree flights of marble stairs gave admittance
rent parts of the mansion, we passed through
llery, and entered the apartment in which the
the family were awaiting our arrival. No
alutation of measured courtesy, no high-bred
ution of "exclusive" indifference, greeted the
rangers; but each in turn approached us with
hand, and offered the kiss of welcome; and
an a quarter of an hour we were all laughing
ting as gaily in French as though we had been

from being obliged to you for a contrary mode of action; that you cannot more seriously offend than by giving them cause to suspect, after your departure, that you have been inconvenienced during your residence in their families.

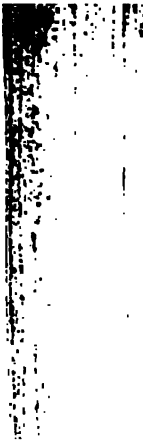
The room in which we were received was of considerable extent, and surrounded on three sides by a divan, like those in the Turkish houses, which were in fact copied from the Greeks; this was covered with gay patterned chintz, and furnished with cushions of cut velvet of a rich deep blue: nor was the comfort of tandour wanting; and, when I had laid aside my cloak, shawl, and bonnet, and exchanged my walking-shoes for slippers, I crept under the wadded coverings as gladly as any Greek among them; and, having surrounded ourselves with cushions, we all sat in luxurious idleness, speculating on the forthcoming ball, and relating anecdotes of those which were past.

Nothing can be more patriarchial than the domestic economy of a Greek family: that in which we were guests comprised three generations; and the respect and obedience shown by the younger branches to their venerable relatives were at once beautiful and affecting. The aged grandmother—a noble remain of former beauty, with a profile which a sculptor must still have loved to look upon, so perfectly was its outline preserved—wore her gray hair braided back from her forehead, and a dark shawl wound about her head; a long pelisse of brown cloth lined with rich fur, with wide sleeves, and an under-jacket of crimson merino, doubled with marten-skin; her daughter, the mistress of the house, and the mother of twelve children, reminded me strongly of a Jewess, with her large, dark, flashing eyes, and high aquiline nose; her wide brow was cinctured with a costly Persian scarf; and during *the day she* three times changed the magnificent *cachemire in* which she was enveloped. The younger *ladies wore turbans* of gauze wreathed with flowers,

a the throat midway to the knee,
ettlcoat of merinos, or chali, fell in
fect.

were comfortably established round
ant brought in a tray on which were
ent glass vase, filled with a delicate
impregnated with *attar de rose*, a
goblets of water, and a silver boat,
gilt tea-spoons. One of these the
immersed in the preserve, and offered
h she replaced the spoon in the boat,
ed a draught of water presented by
ole hand; the whole ceremony was
with my father; and, the tray being
d servant entered with coffee, served
a cups of divers patterns, without
osited in stands of filigreed silver,
the egg-cups of Europe.

ere left to our charcoal and cushions
save that my father smoked a costly
ber mouth-piece of the colour and



When we had taken our places at table, I looked around me with considerable interest: we were truly a large party; all the junior members of the family, who had been throughout the morning "on household cares intent," were gathered around the board; and such a circle of bright black eyes I never beheld before in my life!

The very aspect of the repast was *appetissant;* the portly tureen of rice soup was surrounded by every temptative toa ppetite that can be enumerated; pickled anchovies, shred cheese, dried sausage divided into minute portions, pickles of every description, salt tunny-fish, looking like condensed rose leaves, and Adrianople tongues sliced to the thinness of wafers. The sparkling Greek wines were laughing in light among dishes upheaped with luscious confectionery—Sciote pastry—red mullet, blushing through the garlanded parsley among which they were imbedded—and pyramids of pillauf slightly tinged with the juice of the tomata. More substantial dishes were rapidly handed round by servants: and a delicious dessert crowned the hospitable meal, at the termination of which we hurried to our several apartments, and were soon immersed in all the mysteries of the toilet.

The house of the merchant by whom the ball was to be given, and whose name was Kachishesh Oglou, signifying "Son of the Hermit," was next door to that in which we were already guests; and the cheerful music of the Wallachian band gave earnest of its commencement long ere we were ready to augment the festive crowd. And a crowd it truly was; a perfect social kaleidoscope; for the variety of costumes and colours in constant motion formed a gay and characteristic piece of human mosaic. There were the venerable men whose hair and beards had grown gray with age, and who had scorned to put off the garb of their fathers, the dark globular calpac and the graceful pelisse; the tiers état...

in their semi-European dress, the ill-cut frock-coat, and the scarlet *fez*, drawn down to their very eyebrows; and the young, travelled beaux, in their pride of superior knowledge and *tenue*, gloved and *chaussé* with a neatness and precision worthy of the school in which they had studied.

Among the ladies, the same graduated scale of fashion was perceptible: the elder matrons wore the dark headdress and unbecoming vest of bygone-years, half concealed by the warm wrapping pelisse; the next in age had mingled the Greek and European costumes into one heterogeneous mass, each heightening and widening the absurdity of the other; and had overlaid the inconsistent medley with a profusion of diamonds absolutely dazzling; while the younger ladies presented precisely the same appearance as the belles of a third-rate country-town in England; their petticoats too short, their heads too high, their sleeves too elaborate, and their whole persons overdressed.

I have already remarked on the fondness of the Greek ladies for gay colours; a taste peculiarly, and almost painfully, apparent in a ball-room; such bright blues, deep pinks, and glowing scarlets, I never before saw collected; and this glaring taste extends even to their jewels, which they mix in the most extraordinary manner; their only care being to heap upon their persons every ornament that they can contrive to wear.

I cannot, however, record even this inconsequent criticism without a feeling of self-reproach, when I remember the kindliness of heart and frankness of welcome with which I was received among them. No curious impertinence taught me that I was felt to be a stranger; on the contrary, I was greeted with smiles on every side; each had something kind and complimentary to address to me; and *in ten minutes* I had been presented *to every individual in the room* whose acquaintance I could desire to make. Nor must I pass

over without remark the progress of education among these amiable women; two-thirds of the younger ones speak French, many of them even fluently; several were conversant with English, and still more with Italian; while a knowledge of the ancient Greek is the basis of their education, and is consequently almost general. A taste for music is also rapidly obtaining; and time and greater facilities are alone wanting to lend the polish of high breeding and high education to the Greek ladies: the material is there—they already possess intellect, quickness of perception, and a strong desire for instruction; and, even eminently superior as they already are to the Turkish and Armenian females, they are so conscious of their deficiencies both of education and opportunity, that, were these once secured to them, they would probably be inferior to no women in the world as regards mental acquirements.

I pass by the heavy-looking, but, nevertheless, handsome son of the Prince of Samos, the minister of Moldavia,—a group of Mickialis, Manolakis, Lorenzis, Arcolopolos, &c., &c., &c., all dark-eyed and mustachioed,—to particularize an individual who must ever be an object of great interest to all who are conversant with Eastern politics—I allude to Nicholas Aristarchi, Logotheti, or head of the clergy, and representative of the Greek nation in the Synod—the Aristarchi who is accused by his enemies of having brought about the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi; of having caused Achmet Pasha to counsel the Sultan to cede some of his finest provinces to the Russians, in virtue of the convention of St. Petersburg; and, to crown all, of being in the receipt of a considerable pension, granted to him, in consideration of his services, by the Emperor Nicholas.

But be it remembered that each of these assertions is totally discredited by a numerous party, who have *taken a very different* view of the political career of *Logotheti, and* who find a complete refutation of these

n in the perilous situation of the
omet Ali marched upon Qutayah,
thout fleet or army, threatened by
oned by his friends, deserted by his
l to the bare question of self-preser-
strait (say these), unconsulted, un-
asuspected of such an intention, he
d the Russian fleet to protect him
subjects: nor did he abandon his pur-
onstrance of either his own ministers or
gn powers; and as, during the succeed-
he Ottoman Government have persisted
iews, as if in conviction of their efficacy,
robable that a solitary individual, and
, moreover, a Greek *raiah*,* could possess
er to regulate the movements of a despotic
while it is certain that Aristarchi is still
nce of the Turkish ministry, and is more
oven in the intricate web of her political

hose who have been the most violent
have forgotten, or perhaps have never
ie is the son of that Aristarchi who was
ause he was too true to the cause which
sed. Aristarchi was the last Greek Dra-
Porte, and the confidant of Halet Effendi;
insurrection of his countrymen, he con-
al to the interests of the Sultan, and
ed the straight and manly line of policy
nduced him to support the views of Eng-
those of Russia; but he was abandoned in
e power that he had, in his days of influ-
his best energies to serve. England changed
and Aristarchi, abandoned to the tender
arch-traitor, *Halet Effendi*, was exiled

* *Vassal.*

to Boloo, under a promise of recall; but he ultimately lost his life, which no powerful hand was outstretched to save, simply because Aristarchi was the only individual whose personal and acquired rank rendered him eligible to fill the exalted station of Prince of Wallachia; and that he was unhappily the confidant of the treacherous intrigues of his patron, which that patron well knew that he possessed the power to disclose. Thus, forgotten on the one hand, and betrayed on the other, he fell a sacrifice to the misgivings of Halet Effendi, who supplied his place with one less versed in the intricacies of his own subtle policy.

Logotheti saw his father cut to pieces before his eyes, murdered by the emissaries of those whom he had served with honour and fidelity; he beheld his mother put forth, with her seven helpless daughters, from the home that had so long been hers; he stood between his two young brothers, orphaned and beggared by the same stroke; he saw the possessions which should have been his own pass into the hands of strangers; and he knew and felt that on his individual exertions depended the comforts, the fortunes, the very existence, of those helpless and homeless beings.

I shall pursue this subject no farther for obvious reasons: suffice it that Nicholas Aristarchi, Great Logotheti and Chargé d'Affaires for Wallachia, was to me an object of surpassing interest: I had heard so much of him; I had imagined so much; and I had been so deeply affected by his domestic history, that I was anxious to see a man who had suffered so fearfully, who had struggled so manfully, and who had grappled with fortune until he saw it at his feet; and whose individual influence had sufficed to depose two Patriarchs, and to seat two others on the throne of the Greek church.

Nor was I, when I first met him, aware of the *tendency of his politics*; I was desirous only to make the *acquaintance* of a man who had become an object of

Circassian I had nothing to do. I
e Aristarchi who had saved and
other and a beggared family; I
ragoman who had assisted at trea-

youth among the intrigues of
stic history was a little romance;
thy had been excited by the man-
elated to me; and I rejoiced in
coming known to him.

of the first persons presented to
felt that, had I encountered him
I not have passed him by without
at five and thirty, of the middle
nd in every line of his expressive
ow is high and ample, with the
eding from it, as if fully to reveal
ter; his bright and restless eyes
lash fire during his moments of
those of repose their characteristic
his nose is a perfect aquiline, and
ally conceals a set of the whitest
As he stood conversing with me

(not staff) of office was of the most costly description approached him every five minutes with the temptin luxury, of which he was, however, much too well-bre to avail himself while conversing with me; althoug the Greek ladies are accustomed to this social accessory and many of the elder ones even indulge in it them selves; another handed to him from time to time clean cambric handkerchief, while a third haunted hi like his shadow, and the moment that we paused either in the dance, or in our walk across the room placed a couple of chairs for us to seat ourselves. O this latter arrangement, he availed himself witho scruple, and compelled me to do the same; while, the evolutions of the figure constantly caused me t rise, he invariably stood leaning over the back of m empty chair, until I was again seated, ere he woul resume his own.

As he persisted in dancing with me nearly the whol of the evening, and talking to me during the remainde I soon became much interested in his conversation; an it was with sincere pleasure that I heard him promis to get up an extempore ball for us the following nigh The news soon spread through the room, and gre were the exertions made to secure invitations, the mo particularly as the morrow was the last day of the Ca nival; and, at half past four in the morning, after hav ing received an invitation to breakfast with Madam Logotheti, we made our parting bow to our very hand some hostess and her hospitable husband, and hastene to secure a little rest, to enable us to contend with t fatigues of the forthcoming evening.

A Greek breakfast differs little from a Greek dinne there are the same sparkling wines, the same good tureen of soup, the same meats and confectionery, a *friandises*; but, in addition to these, there is the snow *kaimack, or clotted* cream, and the bubbling urn.

I know not whether others have made the sa

, but I have frequently observed that the breakr a ball, where the party is an agreeable one, t delightful repast. The excitement of the prright has not entirely subsided; the "sayings and of "ladies bright and cavaliers" afford a gay failing topic; and all goes "merry as a marell." Certain it is, that in this instance my theory e out by the result; for, on the termination of al, the family insisted on our remaining with luring our stay at the Tanar. Servants were ngly despatched for our bundlezes and dressingnd we established ourselves comfortably round dour until dinner-time.

he house which Logothetí occupied during the months was merely hired,* and, although ever handsome and spacious, was greatly inferior nificence to his residence on the Bosphorus. o t consider it expedient to give the ball at one of should offend many whom he had neither time ce to invite; but requested one of his friends, Aneste, or Aneste the Pilgrim, a Primate of the church, and a near neighbour, to open his house evening, and the arrangement was accordingly at

had been pleased with Logothetí in the hour and of a ball-room. I was infinitely more so when im in the bosom of his family. His gentle and manners, and his unaffected and kind attenon, rendered him a charming companion, and ours flew so swiftly in his society, and that of family, that dinner was announced, and the ng had appeared to be half spent.

* An example of the words of the Greek Church [illegible] student to meet with that the house was [illegible] the Bay of Bengal, who had a few months ago [illegible] *ame, la dame de ses pensées.*

At half-past nine we were in the ball-room, whic
entered on the arm of Logotheti, and I was considera
startled during our progress up stairs by the manne
his reception. Our host and hostess met us on the fi
landing-place, where they bent down and kissed t
hem of his garment, despite his efforts to prevent t
truly Oriental salutation. Their example was follow
by all those who made way for us; and, as he led t
through the noble saloon in which we were to dance, h
seated me in the centre of the sofa, at the upper end
a drawing-room that opened from it, every one st
and continued standing until he had taken possession
a chair.

Coffee having been handed round, Logotheti co
ducted me back into the saloon, where we opened t
ball with a Polonaise; after which, quadrilles, waltz
cotillons, and mazurkas, followed each other in rap
succession; and, after having been introduced to ma
persons than I could possibly recognise should I ev
meet them again, and dancing until near six o'clock
the morning, I walked another Polonaise with our agre
able host, and quitted the ball-room with more regr
than I ever experienced on a similar occasion.

We remained the morrow at the Fanar, and I ca
ried away with me no memories save those of kindn
and courtesy. Seldom, very seldom, indeed, have
passed three days of such unalloyed gratification
those for which I am indebted to Logotheti and h
friends.

No circumstance impressed me more strongly duri
this very agreeable visit, than the rapid strides wh
the Constantinopolitan Greeks are making towa
civilization. The Turks have a thousand old an
cherished superstitions that tend to clog the chari
wheels of social progression, and which it will requi
time to rend away; the Armenians, who consider th

sters as the *ne plus ultra* of human perfec-
et further removed from improvement than
; while the Greeks, lively and quick-minded,
f by intuition, minute shades of character as
triking points of manners. Locomotive, play-
well as mentally, they indulge their erratic
d propensities by travel; they compare, estí-
d adopt; they pride themselves in their pro-
hey stand forth, scorning all half measures, as
converts to European customs; and they
their minds, as well as their persons, after their
ed models.

Turk is the more stately, the more haughty, and
ore self-centred, of the inhabitants of the East;
n all that relates to social tactics he is very far
or to the keen, shrewd, calculating, intriguing
k.

he Moslem will fix his eye upon a distant and im-
tant object, and work steadily onward until he has
ained it; but, meanwhile, the active Greek will have
tched a score of minor advantages, which probably,
the aggregate, are of more than equal weight. It is
ne collision of mind and matter—the elephant and the
or. Intellectual craft has been the safety-buoy of the
Greeks. Had they been differently constituted, they
would ere this have been swept from the face of the
earth, or have become mere "hewers of wood and
drawers of water." As it is, there is so strong a prin-
ciple of moral life in this portion of the Greek nation,
that, were they only more united among themselves, and
less a prey to intestine jealousies and heart-burnings, it
is probable that in these times, when Turkey has
stretched like a worsted giant at the mercy of the Euro-
pean powers, the heel of the Greeks might be shod with
an iron heavy *enough to press her down beyond all*
means of resuscitation; in possession, as they are, of the
confidence of those in power.

Animal force has subjugated the Gre
jugated, but not subdued them; their phys
has departed, but their moral energy remai
paired: and it is doubtful whether human
ever crush it.

CHAPTER VI.

Obtaining an Insight into Turkish Character—In-ce of Interpreters—Errors of Travellers—Ignorance nt Europeans—Fables and Fable-mongers—Turkey, Moral—Absence of Capital Crime—Police of Con-le—Quiet Streets—Sedate Mirth—Practical Philo-the Turks—National Emulation—Impossibility of n—Mahmoud and his People—Unpopularity of the Russian Interference—Vanity of the Turks—Russian nderness of the Turks to Animals—Penalty for De-a Dog—The English Sportsman—Fondness of the Children—Anecdote of the Reis Effendi—Adopted -Love of the Musselmauns for their Mothers—Turkish ice to Death—Their Burial-places—Fasts—The Turks losque—Contempt of the Natives for Europeans—of the Turkish Women—Inviolability of the Harem—Economy of the Harem—Turkish Slaves—Anecdote e of Achmet Pasha—Cleanliness of Turkish Houses—Romance of the East.

, perhaps, no country under heaven where it ifficult for an European to obtain a full and sight into the national character than in The extreme application, and the length of ssary to the acquirement of the two leading , which bear scarcely any affinity to those of nder the task one of utter hopelessness to the who consequently labours under the disad-of explaining his impressions, and seeking for on through the medium of a third person in-y, and it may almost be said totally, unin-n both. The *most simple question* may be put *ner calculated to influence the* reply: as the *as the tinge of the soil over* which it passes,

so a misplaced emphasis may change the nat
assertion; and no one requires to be reminde
difficulty, if not impossibility, of meeting wit
dividual so straight-forward and matter-of-fa
translate as though he were perpetually *in f*
scientiæ. Thus the means of communication
the native and the stranger have an additional
most insurmountable impediment in this res
peradded to the natural and palpable obsta
scented by opposing and diffluent prejudices,
and opinions.

Flung back, consequently, upon his own re
soured, perhaps, somewhat by the conscious
he is so; and judging according to his own imp
the traveller hazards undigested and erroneo
ments on the most important facts; traces
wrong causes; and, deciding by personal feeli
demns much which, did he perfectly and th
comprehend its nature and tendency, he would
applaud. Hence arise most of those errors r
the feelings and affairs of the East, that ha
misled the public mind in Europe; and, wh
am, I cannot but deplore a fact which I r
ficient in the power to remedy. The repe
public opinion must be wrought by a sk
powerful hand. They are no lady-fingers
grasp a pen potent enough to overthrow the
and prejudices that have covered reams
spread scores of misconceptions. But, nev
the mouse in the fable, I may myself succ
ing away a few of the meshes that impri
and, as I was peculiarly situated during
in the East, and enjoyed advantages and
denied to the generality of travellers, wh
natives are concerned, pass their time in
knowing and unknown," I trust that
refute the errors of some of my pre

well as to adduce facts, according
e, will not entail on me the impu-
.

ver it may have been from want of
certain that Europeans are at this
Turkey, as ignorant of all that re-
economy, her system of govern-
l ethics, as though they had never
ry; and who have, nevertheless,
or fifteen or twenty years. If you
on them to speak upon the sub-
gress beyond exanimate and crude
al effects. They have not exerted
eeper; and it may be supereroga-
; the Embassies the great question
ever discussed, save *en petit comité*.
ted fact that the entrée of native
with native families, are not only
but in most cases impossible to
ice the cause of the tissue of fables
Scheherazade, have created genii
o usque ad mala, in every account
uropean mind has become so im-
Oriental mysteriousness, mysticism,
nd it has been so long accustomed
on the marvels and metaphors of
be doubted whether it will willingly
ciations, and suffer itself to be un-

ey is, indeed, all that has been
, glowing, and magnificent; the
capital seems to claim for it the
Queen of Cities." Throned on its
l in the *blue beauty of the* Bos-
s strait which links the land-locked
l to the mouth of the Euxine;
f the earth in its golden **grasp**;

lording it over the classic and dusky mountains of Asia, and the laughing shores of Europe: the imagination cannot picture a sight or scene of more perfect beauty. But the *morale* of the Turkish empire is less perfect than its terrestrial position; it possesses the best conducted people with the worst conducted government, ministers accessible to bribes, public functionaries practised in chicane, a court without consistency, and a population without energy.

All these things are, however, on the surface, and cannot, consequently, escape the notice of any observant traveller. It is the reverse of the picture that has been so frequently overlooked and neglected. And yet who that regards, with unprejudiced eyes, the moral state of Turkey, can fail to be struck by the absence of capital crime, the contented and even proud feelings of the lower ranks, and the absence of all assumption and haughtiness among the higher?

Constantinople, with a population of six hundred thousand souls, has a police of one hundred and fifty men. No street-riots rouse the quiet citizens from their evening cogitations; no gaming-house vomits forth its throng of despairing or of exulting votaries; no murders frighten slumber from the pillows of the timid, "making night hideous;" no ruined speculator terminates his losses and his life at the same instant, and thus bequeathes a double misery to his survivors; no inebriated mechanic reels homeward to wreak his drunken temper on his trembling wife: the Kavashlir, or police of the capital, are rather for show than use.

From dusk the streets are silent, save when their echoes are awakened by the footfalls of some individual who passes, accompanied by his servant bearing a lantern, on an errand of business or pleasure. Without these lanterns no person can stir, as the streets of the *city are not lighted*, and so ill-paved that it would be *not only difficult*, but almost dangerous, to travel

dark. If occasionally some loud voice of
some ringing peal of laughter, should scare
of night, it is sure to be the voice of the
an European, for the Turk is never loud,
mirth; a quiet, internal chuckle, rather
ils lips than sensible to the ear, is his great-
ration of enjoyment; and while the excita-
ccasionally almost shrieks out his hilarity,
naun will look on quietly, with the smile
nonth, and the sparkle in his eye, which are
ens of his anticipation in the jest.
ts are the most practical philosophers on
are always contented with the present, and
king upon it as a mere fleeting good, to
re as idle to attach any overweening value,
d be to mourn it when it escapes them.
d wealth are such precarious possessions in
hat men cannot afford to waste existence in
ngs at their loss; nor are they inclined to
they remember that the next mutation of
al will may reinstate them, unquestioned
melled, in their original position.
that the sharpest sting of worldly misfor-
red to the Turk, by the perfect similarity of
eling between the rich and the poor; and
fers less morally than the European, from
t there exists no aristocracy in the country,
rth or wealth, to ride rough-shod over their
te fellow-men. The boatmen on the Bos-
l the porter in the streets, the slave in the
and the groom in the stables, are alike eli-
the rank of Pasha; there is no exclusive
aste to absorb "the loaves and fishes" of
urkey; the butcher of to-day may be the
mo of to-*morrow; and the barber* who takes
by the nose on Monday, may on Tuesday,
uthorized to take him by the hand.

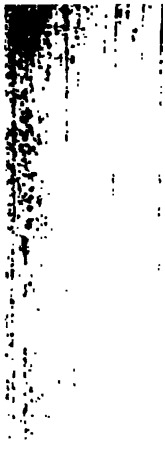
To this circumstance must be attributed, in a
degree, the impossibility of a revolution in Tu
but another may also be adduced of at least
weight. In Europe, the subversion of order is the
of a party who have everything to gain, and who,
possessing no individual interest in the country,
consequently nothing to lose. To persons of this
every social change offers at least the prospect
vantage: but, throughout the Ottoman empire,
every man is the owner of a plot of land, and is en
to trim his own vine, and to sit under the shad
his own fig-tree; he has an interest in the soil
thus, although popular commotions are of fre
occurrence, they merely agitate, without exasper
the feelings of the people.

The Osmanli is, moreover, mentally, as well as
sically, indolent; he is an enemy to all unnec
exertion; and the subjects of Sultan Mahmoud
never threatened him with rebellion because he w
to grant any change in their existing privileges
customs; but, on the contrary, because he soug
introduce innovations for which they had never
and for which they had no desire. "Why," the
claim in their philosophy,—"why seek to alter w
well? If we are content, what more can we de
And, acting upon this principle, they resist eve
tempt at change, as they would a design against
individual liberty.

This feeling has induced the great unpopular
the Sultan; who, in his zeal to civilize the empir
uccessarily shocked many privileges and overt
many theories. That he *is* unpopular, unfortu
admits of no doubt, even in the minds of those
attached to his interests; the very presence of R
arms within his Imperial territory sufficiently atte
fact: and it is to be feared that he will discover,
too late, that these apparent means of safety

nania for improvement and innova-
ant of affection for his person, and
or his opinions, which operate most
r his interests.

Influence has negatived the good
is endeavours is palpable, and forces
notice of those who look closely and
sting state of things in Constanti-
y of Russia to check every advance
ant among a people whom she
led, and whom she would fain sub-
s vain and self-centred, and consti-
tible to flattery. Tell him that he
est, discreetest, best," and his own
ads him immediately to put firm
ty of your assertion; the effect of
dent at once; it paralyzes all desire
ent: he holds it as supererogatory to
and paint the lily," and he thus
reshold, when he should press for-



ments are sad innovators on our

proached by his rowers with as much horror as phasis as though he had been guilty of homicide

I have elsewhere remarked on the singular nity enjoyed by the aquatic birds which throng t bour of Constantinople, and sport among the shi on the divers, that may be knocked down by the every passing caïque, so fearless are they of vicinity; and the gulls, which cluster like pig the roofs of the houses; on the porpoises that the port, and the dogs that haunt the streets. not may be unamusing to state the forfeit infli an individual for destroying one of these anima is both curious and characteristic. The dead hung up by the tail in such a manner as to su nose to touch the ground; and his murderer pelled to cover him entirely with corn or mill which is secured by the proper authorities, and buted to the poor. This ceremony generally c delinquent about a thousand piastres.

Another distinguishing trait in the Turkish ch is their strong parental affection; indeed, I n love of children generally. Nothing can be mo tiful than the tenderness of a Turkish father; every demonstration of dawning intellect, ever of infant affection, with a delight which must nessed to be thoroughly understood; he ant every want, he gratifies every wish, he sacrifi own personal comfort, to insure that of his chi I cannot better illustrate this fact than by men a circumstance which fell under my own obser

The Reiss Effendi, or Minister for Foreign had a grandchild whose indisposition caused h most lively uneasiness; it was in vain that his physician assured him of the total absence of *his every thought*, his every anxiety, were w *darling boy; in* the midst of the most pressin *business he would* start up and hasten to the

e himself that everything
would leave his friends in
beside the sick-bed of the
a strict and rigid system of
was to be of a fortnight's
itted himself, and compelled
mit, to the same monotonous
oy should accidentally see, or
as of the presence of, any more
he might pine, and thus in-

at I have cited an extreme in-
eality, far from being the case;
do the Osmanlis carry their love
are constantly adopting those of
phatically denominate "children
generally take them into their
infants; they rear them with the
ad tenderness; and finally portion
iage, as though the claim were a
a gratuitous, one. The adopted
ot like the *protégé* of Europe, the
ason, and ultimately too often the
the act of adoption is with the Turks
n; and poverty and privation would
them of well-doing where their affec-
heir word, were pledged.
autiful feature in the character of the
everence and respect for the author of
heir wives advise and reprimand au-
words are *both*—nothing—but the mo-
e; she is consulted, confided in, listened
t and deference, honoured to her latest
embered with affection and regret beyond
My *wives die, and I* can replace them,"
anli; "*my children* perish, and others
to me; but who shall restore to me

the mother who is passed away and who is a[s] more?"

These are strong traits, beautiful develope[d] human nature; and if such be indeed the [es]sen[tial] butes of "barbarism," then may civilised Europe[ans] her pride of science and her superiority of kn[ow]- confess that herein at least she is mated by [the] highly-gifted Musselmauns.

The philosophy and kindly feeling of the [Mo]- carried even beyond the grave. He looks upon [it] calmly and without repugnance; he does not [as]- it with ideas of gloom and horror, as we are too [ac]- to do in Europe: he spreads his burial-places [in] sunniest spots; on the crests of the laughing [hills] where they are bathed in the light of the bl[ue] beside the crowded thoroughfares of the city, whe[re] dead are, as it were, once more mingled wi[th] living, in the green nooks that stretch down to the [Bo]- phorus, wherein more selfish spirits would have [set] a villa, or have planted a vineyard. He ide[n]- himself with the generation which has passed away [and] is ready to yield his place to that which is to [suc]- his own.

Nor must I omit to remark on the devout and [un]- fected religious feeling that exists in Turkey, not [only] among the Musselmauns, who, however imperative [may] be their avocations, never neglect to pray five [times] during the day; but equally among the Greeks, [the] Armenians, whose fasts are so severe that those of [the] Roman Catholics are comparatively feasts. If [you] meet a Turk and inquire after his health, he re[plies] "*Shukiur Allah!*—Praise be to God; I am well." Every thing is referred to the Great First Cause. There is none of that haughty self-dependence, that [self]- weening *morgue*, so strongly marked in Europe. *Among men*, the Osmanli considers himself the [equal] *but only among* men; when he puts off his slippers

-wadded pew, and to listen to the words
eside a comfortable stove, in dreamy in-
takes his place among the crowd; the
beside the water-carrier; the Bey near
nder; he is but one item among many;
himself no honour in the temple where
one common family; and he insults not
jesty by a bended knee and a stubborn

erality of the Turks hold every Frank in
mpt admits of no doubt; and could
ir own phrase, "make our fathers and
irt," I am afraid that our respectable
I never again enjoy a comfortable meal;
g on their part is rather amusing than
only enhances the merit of their polite-
show courtesy to the stranger and the

all prone to believe, freedom be happi-
the Turkish women the happiest, for
ly the freest individuals in the empire.

harem seldom produces more than the trite "*Bakalum*—we shall see."

It is also a fact that though a Turk has an undoubted right to enter the apartments of his wives at all hours, it is a privilege of which he very rarely, I may almost say never, avails himself. One room in the harem is appropriated to the master of the house, and therein he awaits the appearance of the individual with whom he wishes to converse, and who is summoned to his presence by a slave. Should he, on passing to his apartment, see slippers at the foot of the stairs, he cannot, under any pretence, intrude himself in the harem: it is a liberty that every woman in the empire would resent. When guests are on a visit of some days, he sends a slave forward to announce his approach, and thus gives them time and opportunity to withdraw.

A Turkish woman consults no pleasure save her own when she wishes to walk or drive, or even to pass a short time with a friend; she adjusts her *yashmac* and *feridjhe*, summons her slave, who prepares her *boksha*, or bundle, neatly arranged in a muslin handkerchief; and, on the entrance of the husband, his inquiries are answered by the intelligence that the Hanoum* Effendi is gone to spend a week at the harem of so and so. Should he be suspicious of the fact, he takes steps to ascertain that she is really there; but the idea of controlling her in the fancy, or of making it subject of reproach on her return, is perfectly out of the question.

The instances are rare in which a Turk, save among the higher ranks, becomes the husband of two wives. He usually marries a woman of his own rank; after which, should he, either from whim, or for family rea-

* Signifying mistress, or lady.

on increasing his establishment, he pur-
from Circassia and Georgia, who are
ques; and who, however they may succeed
g the Buyuk Hanoum, or head of the
affections, are, nevertheless, subordinate
e household, bound to obey her bidding,
greatest respect, and to look up to her as
Thus a Turkish lady constantly prefers the
of half a dozen *Odaliques* into her harem
cond wife; as it precludes the possibility
enient assumption of power on the part of
ons, who must, under all circumstances,
ervient to her authority.

total absence of education among Turkish
the consequently limited range of their
ıer cause of that quiet, careless, indolent,
t they enjoy; their sensibilities have never
ed, and their feelings and habits are com-
ıexacting; they have no factitious wants,
of excessive mental refinement; and they
ore, torment themselves with the myriad
d doubts, and chimeras, which would
depress the spirit of more highly-gifted
ve her shawls, and diamonds, a spacious
tamboul, and a sunny palace on the Bos-
a Turkish wife is the very type of happi-
d with trifles, careless of all save the
; a woman in person, but a child at

man, and condemned to an existence of
would unhesitatingly choose that of slavery
family; for if ever the "bitter draught"
rendered palatable, it is there. The slave
li is the child of his adoption; *he* purchases
a be*ing to cherish, to protect,* and to sup-
almost every case he secures to himself
ld could not command—a devoted and

loving heart, ready to sacrifice its every hope a pulse in his service. Once forget that the menial who hands you your coffee, or pours th water on your hands from an urn of silver, h purchased at a price, and you must look with ration on the relative positions of the servant lord; the one so eager and so earnest in his s the other so gentle and so unexacting in hi mands.

No assertion of mine can, however, so satisf prove the fact which I have here advanced, as cumstance that almost all the youth of both s Circassia insist upon being conveyed by their to Constantinople, where the road to honour a vancement is open to every one. The slaves re wages; the price of their services has alrea paid to their relatives; but twice in the year, a periods, the master and mistress of the famil indeed, every one of their superiors under th roof, are bound to make them a present, term *Backshish*, the value of which varies according will of the donor; and they are as well fed, and as well clothed, as their owners.

As they stand in the apartment with their folded upon their breasts, they occasionally mi conversation unrebuked; while, from their (every individual maintaining as many as his will admit), they are never subjected to hard indeed, I have been sometimes tempted to thi all the work of a Turkish house must be done fairies; for, although I have been the inmate of harems at all hours, I never saw a symptom thing like domestic toil.

There is a remarkable feature in the position Turkish slaves which I must not omit to n *Should it occur* that one of them, from whatev *it may arise*, feels himself uncomfortable in h

ner, the dissatisfied party requests his master
e of him; and, having repeated this appeal
eral times, the law enforces compliance with
; nor is this all, the slave cannot only insist
ing owners, but even on selecting his par-
although he may by such means entail con-
loss on his master. But, as asseveration is
, I will adduce an example.
fe of Achmet Pasha had a female slave, who,
rtial to a young man of the neighbourhood,
ous to become his property. Such being the
informed her mistress that she wished to be
the market and disposed of, which was accord-
ded into effect; but, as she was young and
d her lover in confined circumstances, he was
dden by a wealthier man; and, on her return
rem of Achmet Pasha, her mistress told her
Asiatic merchant had offered twenty thousand
or her, and that she would be removed to his
a few days. "I will not belong to him," was
; "there was a young man in the market who
ve thousand for me, and I have decided to
m. My price to you was but ten thousand
and thus you will gain two thousand by selling
n." Her declaration was decisive: she became
erty of her lover, and her resolution cost her
eighty pounds sterling.
most perfect cleanliness is the leading cha-
c of Eastern houses; not a grain of dust, not
ark, defaces the surface of the Indian mat-
t covers the large halls, whence the several
nts branch off in every direction; the glass
ich you drink is carefully guarded to avoid the
y of contamination; and, *the instant that* you
en, a slave *stands before you with water* and
to cleanse your hands. To the constant

use of the bath I have already alluded; and no soil is ever seen on the dress of a Turkish gentlewoman.

I am quite conscious that more than one lady-reader will lay down my volume without regret, when she discovers how matter-of-fact are many of its contents. The very term "Oriental" implies to European ears the concentration of romance; and I was long in the East ere I could divest myself of the same feeling. It would have been easy for me to have continued the illusion, for Oriental habits lend themselves greatly to the deceit, when the looker-on is satisfied with glancing over the surface of things; but with a conscientious chronicler this does not suffice; and, consequently, I rather sought to be instructed than to be amused, and preferred the veracious to the entertaining.

This bowing down of the imagination before the reason, is, however, the less either a merit on the one hand, or a sacrifice on the other, that enough of the wild and the wonderful, as well as of the bright and the beautiful, still remains to make the East a scene of enchantment. A sky, whose blue brilliancy floods with light alike the shores of Asia and of Europe—whose sunshine falls warm and golden on domes, and minarets, and palaces—a sea, whose waves glitter in silver, forming the bright bond by which two quarters of the world are linked together—an Empire, peopled by the gathering of many nations—the stately Turk—the serious Armenian—the wily Jew—the keen-eyed Greek—the graceful Circassian—the desert-loving Tartar—the roving Arab—the mountain-born son of Caucasus—the voluptuous Persian—the Indian Dervish, and the thoughtful Frank—each clad in the garb, and speaking *the language*, of his people; suffice to weave a web *of tints too* various and too brilliant to be wrought

ie dull and common-place pattern of every-day
ce.
uld not remove one fold of the graceful drapery
veils the time-hallowed statue of Eastern power
auty; but I cannot refrain from plucking away
sh and tinsel that ignorance and bad taste have
bout it; and which belong as little to the mas-
e they desecrate, as the votive offerings of bigo-
superstition form a part of one of Raphael's
Madonnas, because they are appended to her

CHAPTER VII.

The Harem of Mustafa Effendi—The Ladies quettical Observances of the Harem — Salemliek—Jealousy of Precedence among —Apartment of the Effendi—Eastern pas Personal Appearance of Mustafa Effendi— — Slavery in Turkey—Gallant present—T Cookery—Illuminated Mosques—The *Bok* after the Bath—History of an *Odalique*— Reciprocal Commiseration—Errors of a veller—Privacy of the Women's Apartme Wife of the Kiara Bey—The Baïram *Bi* ing-room—Forethought of Turkish Hos Fatma Hanoum — Dense Crowd — Tu Officers—Military Difficulty—The "Lo rance of the Orientals towards Foreign pedient.

On the eve of the Baïram which ter zan, we passed over to Constantino to visit Mustafa Effendi, the Egypti whose magnificent mansion is situa the Seraglio. Having passed the selves in a spacious and covered c right hand a marble fountain, i basin the water fell murmuringly heads; and, beyond it, the ent apartments, with the conventu means of which food is introduce on our left a stately staircase lea of the building. Here our pa *separate; the* gentlemen put o *lowed the* two black slaves w

res, who took our shoes, shawls, and
us over the fine Indian matting of the
the richly-furnished apartment of the
.

t reigned in the room, of which all the
osely drawn to exclude the sun; and
inister and her daughter-in-law were
ndour engaged in conversation with
ttendants, who stood before them in
h their arms folded upon their breasts.
as the most high bred person whom
in the country; the younger one was
e, with eyes like jet, and a very sweet
ression; she spoke but seldom, and
yllables, being evidently over-awed by
ier companion.

obably few nations in the world that
h severity as the Turks that domestic
tiquette, which, while it may certainly
espectful familiarity, has a tendency to
e. In the Salemlick, when the Buyuk

down and kiss the hem of their mistress's garment on her first appearance in the morning.

These heart-shutting observances cannot fail to heighten the jealousy which their relative position must naturally excite in the bosoms of the other inmates of the harem, although such a circumstance as rebellion against the supreme power is never heard of, nor imagined.

During the day we were summoned to the apartment of the minister; whither, as the invitation was not extended to his wife, we went, accompanied only by three or four black slaves. After traversing several long galleries and halls, covered so closely with matting that not a footfall could be heard, we passed under the tapestry-hanging that veiled the door of the Effendi's apartment, and found ourselves in an atmosphere so heavy with perfume that for a moment it was almost suffocating.

The venerable Chargé d'Affaires, who had been long an invalid, was sitting upon his sofa, surrounded by cushions of every possible size and shape, wrapped in furs, and inhaling the odour of a bunch of musk lemons, the most sickly and sating of all savours: a magnificent mangal, upheaped with fire, occupied the centre of the apartment; the divan was almost covered with inlaid boxes, articles of bijouterie, books, and papers; a large silver tray, resting upon a tripod, was piled pyramidically with fine winter fruits; and within a recess on one side of the room were ranged a splendid coffee-service of French porcelain, and a pair of tall and exquisitely-wrought essence vases of filligreed silver; in short, the whole aspect of the apartment would have satisfied the most boudoir-loving *petite-maitresse* of Paris or London. Near the mangal stood the four attendants of the master of the house, *two fine* boys of twelve or fourteen years of age,

and two pretty little girls, one or two years younger, gorgeously dressed, and wearing magnificent brilliant ornaments on their heads and bosoms.

The rage for diamonds is excessive among both the Turks and the Greeks; but, while the Greek ladies delight in heaping upon their persons every ornament for which they can find space, many of the fair Osmanlis, with a pretty exclusive scorn of adventitious attraction, content themselves with a clasp or two, a bracelet, or some similar bagatelle; and decorate their favourite slaves with their more costly and ponderous jewels.

A most venerable-looking person was Mustafa Effendi, with his lofty turban, and his snow-white beard; and he received us so kindly, and discoursed with us so good-humouredly, that I was delighted with him. A chair was brought for the Greek lady who had accompanied me, but he motioned to me to place myself on a pile of cushions at his side, where I remained very comfortably during the whole of our visit. He took a great quantity of snuff from a box whose lid was richly set with precious stones; and, on my admiring it, showed me another containing his opium pills, which was exquisitely inlaid with fine large brilliants.

My attention being attracted to the rosy, happy-looking little slave-girl who stood near me, with her chubby arms crossed before her, her large pink trowsers completely concealing her naked feet, and her long ...antery richly trimmed with yellow floss-silk ...e, lying upon the carpet; he beckoned her to him, ...l her a good child, who had wit enough to anti- ... his wants, and affection enough to supply them ...t bidding, and bade me remark the henna with the tips of her toes and fingers were deeply

She was, he said, a Georgian, whom he had ...ed of her mother for six thousand piastres; she ...ady been in his house two years; and he hoped ...r to give her a marriage portion, and to see

her comfortably established, as she was a good g
he was much attached to her. The other, he
was also obedient and willing, but she did not
the vivacity and quickness of his little favouri
had cost him seven thousand piastres, as she wa
older, and considerably stronger than her comp
and was a Circassian, brought to Constantinop
sold, at her own request, by her parents.

When I remembered that these children were
I felt inclined to pity them; when the very pric
had been paid for them was stated to me, a
crept over my heart; but, as I looked upon the
and happy countenances of the two little girls,
membered that slavery, in Turkey at least, is
name, and in nine cases out of ten even voluntar
that here my commiseration would be misplace

Soon after we had taken leave of the gentle
cious old Effendi, a basket of delicious fruit w
into the harem for our use, with an injunction
should dine alone, lest we should be inconvenie
the national habits. An embroidered carpet w
sequently spread, beside which were placed a c
cushions; and the dinner tray, such as I hav
described it, was lifted into the apartment of the
lady, at her earnest request: nine slaves, formi
from the table to the door, waited upon us: and
took of an endless variety of boiled, stewed, roas
baked, delicious cinnamon soup, chicken, farci
fine herbs and olives, anchovy cakes, lemon-tin
lauf, chopped meat and spiced rice, rolled in p
vine-leaves, the most delicate of pastry, and t
costly of conserves. Many-coloured sherbets,
monade, completed the repast; and when I la
my gold-embroidered napkin, and wiped the ro
from my hands, I could but marvel at the hy
tidiousness of those travellers who have affe
quarrel with the Turkish kitchen; or infer

evening had closed in, or the illu-
f the city, and the lines of light that
f fire from minaret to minaret. The
. beneath the shock of the rattling
he sounds which came to us from
stivity and rejoicing; and, mean-
ppy party within. Fatma Hanoum
and overlooked the distribution of
her daughter was preparing for the
mber of the household, on the occa-
being entitled to a present, more or
ling to their deserts, the length and
ervices, or the degree of favour in
ld.

amused ourselves with watching the
left the bath, had seated themselves
ver end of the apartment, combing,
ling, their dark, glossy hair; the
ng it into one long, thick plait, hang-
re of the back, and twisting about it
rchief, so popular in the harem that
by the Sultana and the slaves, the

than did the females of the harem of Mustafa Effendi black and white, for the Bairam.

In the course of the evening, the Buyuk Hanoum was summoned to her husband, and then the third wife of her son joined us at the tandour, and related to us the little history of her life, which, although by no means remarkable in Turkey, is so characteristic, and will, moreover, appear so extraordinary to European readers, that I shall give it, as nearly as my memory will serve me, in her own words.

"I am but nineteen," she said, "a Circassian by birth, and was brought by my parents to Constantinople, and sold, at the age of nine years, to a friend of Fatma Hanoum's. I was very happy, for she was kind to me, and I thought to pass my life in her harem; but about a year ago I accompanied her hither on a visit to the wife of Mustafa Effendi, at a moment when his son was beside her. I was one of the four; and I do not yet understand why nor how I attracted his attention as I stood beside my companions; but a few days afterwards my mistress called me to her, and asked me if I had remarked the young Ismaël Bey when we had visited his mother. I told her that I had seen him, and she then informed me that the Hanoum desired to purchase me, in obedience to his wish; and demanded of me if I were willing to accede to the arrangement. Of course, I consented, and the Bey, having considered me as agreeable, when I had withdrawn my *yashmac*, he had anticipated, he purchased me for ten thousand piastres, and I became an inmate of the harem of Mustafa Effendi. I am still happy," she added plaintively, "very happy, for I am sure he loves me; but I nevertheless hope to be more so; for ere long I shall be a mother, and should my child prove to be a boy, *from his Odalique* I may perhaps become his wife."

I pitied the poor young creature as I listened to her

a I had heard her story, was even painful; feeling lessened by an introduction to her ao, during the evening, sent to desire that en, save his mother and wife, should retire, ed to visit the harem; doubtlessly as much curiosity, as to exhibit his courtesy, by respects to the European guests of his illow and sickly-looking, inanimate, even and apparently *bête comme une buche*, he lf, and listened to the conversation with one l inexpressive smile—

he knew not why, and cared not wherefore;

admiration between the Frank ladies, and y of a large diamond that he wore on his

iparative is happiness! I never lay my my pillow, but I am grateful to Providence ot born in Turkey; while the fair Osmanlis n pity the Frank women with a depth of lm st ludicrous. They can imagine no parable with ours; we take so much trouble

our faces uncovered, and exposing them to the sun and wind, when we might veil them comfortably with a *yashmac!* Not a day passes in which they have commerce with a Frank, but they return thanks to Allah that they are not European women!

A modern French traveller, whose amusing work has, in one moderate volume, contrived to treat of about a dozen countries and localities; and to detail, respecting each, such a mass of fallacies as assuredly were never before collected together: informs his readers that the jealousies of the harem are carried to such a pitch as to entail poison, or, at least, humiliating and severe labour on the victim of the disappointed rival! This assertion, like many others in which he has indulged, would be comic were it not wicked; for the very arrangements of the harem render it impossible: each lady has her private apartment, which, should she desire to remain secluded, no one has the privilege to invade; and, from the moment that she becomes a member of the family, her life, should she so will it, is one of the most monotonous idleness. The very slaves, as I believe I have elsewhere remarked, are so numerous in every handsome establishment, that three-fourths of their time is unemployed; and as, in the less distinguished ranks, no Turk indulges in the expensive luxury of a second wife, there is little opportunity afforded for female tyranny.

The Kiara Bey, or Minister of the Interior, despite his exalted station and his immense wealth, has declined to avail himself of his polygamical privilege; and, although his wife is both plain and elderly, she has such a supreme hold, if not upon his heart, at least upon his actions, that, a short time since, having discovered that her lord had suddenly become more than necessarily attentive to a fair Circassian, her own *peculiar favourite*, whom she had reared from a child, *and whose beauty* was of no ordinary character, she

utter a reproach to his outraged helpmate, scovered the absence of the too-fascinating

unhappy girl been the *Odalique* of the d of the slave of the lady, the evil would irremediable, however ; as in that case, the noum would have possessed no power to r.

the morning, the stately Fatma Hanoum to my companion and myself a *bokshalik* venerable Effendi, which consisted of the r a dress, neatly folded in a handkerchief of in, fringed with gold-coloured silk ; and, as hasty toilette, in the hope of witnessing the of the Bairam, and seeing Mahmoud "the in all the splendour of his greatness, I th considerable interest round the apartment had passed the night. In the domed recess, on discovered to be common to every hand- ish apartment, stood a French clock, that d" if not "eloquent," at least fairy-like, piece of furniture by the way universally

Turkish hospitality and *prévoyance* provide even the refreshment of a sleepless night!

The divan was of flesh-coloured satin, and the cu as delicately wrought and patterned as a cachem shawl. The cushions which had been piled about bed were of velvet, satin, and embroidered muslin; the coverlets, of rich Broussa silk, powdered with s leaves.

I made my libations with perfumed water, a lowed my coffee from a china cup so minute th fairy might have drained it, tied on my bonnet, an ject of unvarying amusement to the Turkish ladies, consider this stiff head-dress as one of the most fri ful and ridiculous of European inventions, and t adieu to Fatma Hanoum and her dark-eyed daugh with a regret which their unbounded courtesy and k ness were well calculated to inspire.

A wealthy Armenian diamond-merchant, who h a high situation in the Mint, had offered us a win whence we might witness the whole ceremony of Imperial procession, and towards this point we bent steps. But, alas for our curiosity! our leave-tal had been so thoughtlessly prolonged, that the sub of his Sublime Highness had blocked up every ave bearing upon the point by which he was to pass; a despite all the efforts of our European cavaliers native attendants, to proceed was impossible. accordingly took up our station a little apart from crowd, in order to contemplate at our ease the n and picturesque spectacle of a Turkish mob.

In the distance rose the gigantic dome and arr minarets of Saint Sophia; and beneath them, fa the eye could reach, stretched a sea of capped turbaned heads, heaving and sinking like billows a storm. Every house-roof, every mouldering w *every heap of* rubbish, was covered with eager sp *tators; while the* windows of the surrounding ou

ings were crowded with veiled women and laughing children.

What groups were wedged together in the narrow space immediately before us! The pale, bent, submissive-looking Jew was folding his greasy mantle closer about him, as he elbowed aside the green-turbaned Emir, and the grave and solemn Hadje who had knelt beside the grave of the Prophet; the bustling Frank was striding along, jostling alike the serious Armenian, whose furred and flowing habit formed a strange contrast to the short blue jacket and tight pantaloons of the tall, strong-limbed Circassian; and the bustling and noisy Greek, whose shrill voice and vociferous utterance would have suited a woman; parties of Turkish officers were forcing a passage as best they could, with their caps pulled down upon their eyebrows, their sword-belts hanging at least a quarter of a yard below their waists, and their diamond stars (the symbols of their military rank) glittering in the clear sunshine; patroles of Turkish soldiers were endeavouring in vain to clear a passage along the centre of the street for the convenience of the Sultanas, and the wives of the different Pashas, whose arabas were momentarily expected; the mob closing rapidly in their rear as they slowly moved on; and clouds of doves at intervals filled the air, the tenants of the giant mosque before us, scared from the usual quiet of their resting-place by the unwonted stir and excitement beneath them.

As the birds which domesticate themselves about the mosques are held sacred, and regarded with almost superstitious reverence, their numbers necessarily increase to a wonderful extent; and on this occasion they hovered round the stupendous edifice of Saint Sophia, to the amount of several thousand.

A strange military difficulty *had been started* a short time previously *to the occasion of the* Bairam, which *had been overcome in so extraordinary* and even hu-

merous a manner, that it deserves especial r
and it was to convince myself of the actual
of the laughable custom engendered by Turl
lousy, that I remained longer than I should ha
wise been induced to do, in the immediate vici
Constantinopolitan mob. Be it, however, av
passant, that the—what shall I call them ?
European term of "lower orders" is by n
applicable to a people who acknowledge no
of rank, no aristocracy save that of office—
mass of the population of the capital—assimil
one point with our own turbulent, vociferous,
promising, and unaccommodating mobs in
Among above five thousand boatmen, arti
soldiers, not a blow was struck, not a voice v
in menace; among the conflicting interests,
and prejudices of Christians, Musselmauns,
not a word was uttered calculated to excite
unpleasant feeling; while I am bound to cor
a female, however fastidious, would have fou
offend her amid the crush and confusion of th
mass of commonly called semi-civilized huma
than in a walk of ten minutes through the
London or Paris.

The natives of the East have yet to learn t
can be either wit or amusement in annoying
the mere sake of creating annoyance; that
be humour in raising a blush on the cheek of

nder justice to the Turkish population, I dably digressed; I shall mention, without ace, that it arose from the reluctance of nd his ministers, that the troops, in pre- s to the female members of the Imperial ld have the opportunity afforded them of ry gaze at their veiled and sacred counte- e difficulty was, how to retain the "pomp stance" of the ceremonial, and at the same der this passing privilege impossible. A l and satisfactory expedient was at length discovered; and we were lucky enough to effect of the new arrangement.

and noisy rattle of the arabas was heard, as passed along the line that the Sultanas aching; and suddenly the troops faced their backs to the open space along which es were expected, and, extending their arms ll length, the manœuvre was performed n, producing the most extraordinary and ene that was perhaps ever enacted by a

CHAPTER VIII.

Bath-room of Scodra Pasha—Fondness of the Easter for the Bath—The Outer Hall—The Proprietress Groups—The Cooling-room—The Great Hall—The —The Bathing Women—The Dinner—Apology for t Ladies.

THE first bath-room which I saw in the cou that of Scodra Pasha; and had I been incli do, I might doubtlessly have woven a pret on the subject, without actually visiting on extraordinary establishments. But too muc ready been written on inference by Eastern and I have no wish to add to the number which have been advanced as facts, by suffer gination to usurp the office of vision. Such case, I resolved to visit a public bath in comp a female acquaintance, and to become not onl tator, but an actor in the scene, if I found the ment feasible.

The bath-room of the Pasha, or rather of h was a domed cabinet, lined with marble, m heated, and entered from the loveliest littl imaginable, where a sofa of brocaded silk, p cushions of gold tissue, offered the means after the exhaustion of bathing. But I hav tenanted only by a Greek lady and myself, ar score of slaves, who were all occupied in at upon us; and I felt at once that, under such stances, I could form no adequate idea of *understood* by a Turkish bath; the terrestrial

Eastern women, where politics, social and national,
ndal, marriage, and every other subject under
ven, within the capacity of uneducated but quick-
ted females, is discussed: and where ample revenge
aken for the quiet and seclusion of the harem, in
noise, and hurry, and excitement of a crowd.
Having passed through a small entrance-court, we
ered an extensive hall, paved with white marble,
surrounded by a double tier of projecting galleries,
ported by pillars; the lower range being raised
ut three feet from the floor. These galleries were
ered with rich carpets, or mattresses, overlaid with
itz or crimson shag, and crowded with cushions;
spaces between the pillars were slightly partitioned
to the height of a few inches; and when we en-
d, the whole of the boxes, if I may so call them,
e occupied, save the one which had been reserved
us.

n the centre of the hall, a large and handsome
ıtain of white marble, pouring its waters into four
ple scallop-shells, whence they fell again into a large
n with the prettiest and most soothing sound ima-
able, was surrounded by four sofas of the same ma-
al, on one of which a young and lovely woman lay
owed on several costly shawls nursing her infant.
When I had established myself comfortably among
cushions, I found plenty of amusement for the first
f hour in looking about me; and a more singular
ıe I never beheld. On the left hand of the door of
rance, sat the proprietress of the baths, a beautiful
nan of about forty, in a dark turban, and a straight
ss of flowered cotton, girt round the waist with a
hemire shawl; her chemisette of silk gauze was
ily trimmed, her gold snuff-box lay on the sofa
ide her, her amber-headed pipe rested against a
shion, and she was amusing *herself by winding* silk
m a small *ebony distaff, and taking* a prominent

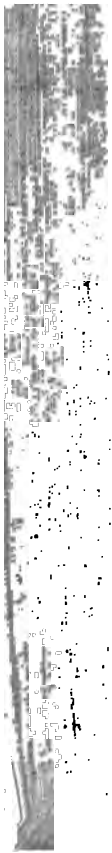
part in the conversation; while immediately l
her squatted a negro slave-girl of twelve or th
years of age, grinning from ear to ear, and rollin
whites of her large eyes in ecstasy at all that was
forward.

The boxes presented the oddest appearance
world; some of the ladies had returned from the
ing-hall, and were reclining luxuriously upon
sofas, rolled from head to foot in fine white lin
many instances embroidered and fringed with
with their fine hair falling about their shoulders,
their slaves, not quite so closely covered as thei
tresses, were drying, combing, perfuming, and p
with the greatest care. Others were preparing
bath, and laying aside their dresses, or rather se
them to be laid aside, for few of them extended
to assist themselves, while the latest comers w
moving their *yashmacs* and cloaks, and exch
greetings with their acquaintance.

As I had previously resolved to visit every
the establishment, I followed the example of my
panion who had already undergone the fatigu
Oriental bath; exchanged my morning dress for
wrapper, and loosened my hair: and then, con
by the Greek waiting-maid who had accompani
I walked barefooted across the cold marble flo
door at the opposite extremity of the hall, and, o
ing the threshold, found myself in the cooling
where groups of ladies were sitting, or lying listle
their sofas, enveloped in their white linen wrapp
preparing for their return to the colder region
I had just made my escape.

This second room was filled with hot air, to n
deed, most oppressively so; but I soon discover
it was, nevertheless, a *cooling-room*; when, aft
ing traversed it, and dipped my feet some half
times in the little channels of warm water tha

first few moments I was bewildered: the
e, sulphureous vapour that filled the place,
sufficated me; the wild, shrill cries of the
ng through the reverberating domes of the
lls, enough to awaken the very marble with
y were lined; the subdued laughter, and
conversation of their mistresses murmuring
under current of sound; the sight of nearly
red women only partially dressed, and that
n so perfectly saturated with vapour, that
the whole outline of the figure; the busy
sing and repassing, naked from the waist
nd, with their arms folded upon their bosoms,
n their heads piles of fringed or embroidered
roups of lovely girls, laughing, chatting, and
themselves with sweetmeats, sherbet, and
parties of playful children, apparently quite
to the dense atmosphere which made me
r breath; and, to crown all, the sudden
rth of a chorus of voices into one of the
i shrillest of Turkish melodies, that was



of them turn their heads even to look
stranger, as we passed on to the smal
that had been retained for us.

The process of Turkish bathing is ted
ing, and troublesome; I believe that th
who attended me spent an hour and a
hair alone. The supply of water is imm
be regulated at the pleasure of the bat
into the marble basin from two pipes, t
forth a hot, and the other a cold, stream
on which you stand and sit is heated to
you could not support, were the atmosp
and oppressive; and, as the water is po
from an embossed silver basin, the feelin
becomes almost agreeable. Every lad
her all the appliances of the bath, as wel
her own servant; the inferior ranks
themselves of the services of the bathing
in such-cases, supply their employers v
requisite.

These bathing-women, of whom I sa
traversed the great hall, are the most un
that can be imagined; from constant
sulphureous atmosphere, their skins h
the colour of tobacco, and of the consis
ment; many among them were elderl
not one of them was wrinkled; they h
become aged like frosted apples; the s
ened over the muscles, and produced
least was a hideous feature of old age.

Having remained in the bath about t
a half, I began to sicken for pure air
accordingly, winding a napkin with frin
my head, and folding myself in my wra
and imprudently traversed the coolin
crowded with company, looking like
of resuscitated corses clad in their gra

gained the outer hall, where the
from my head, my hair carefully
ing, and enveloped in a painted
f; and myself buried among the
divan.
ad been added to the scene since
ost of the ladies were at dinner.
of the bath, which throws all the
ad, had passed from most of their
placed by the pure, pale, peach-like
lexion that its constant use never fails
mbers of negresses were entering with
r departing with the reliques of those
served up; and, as the Turkish mode
itself to these *pic-nic* species of repasts,
ppeared to be as much at home squatted
ated or china bowls, spoon in hand, in
bath, as though they were partaking of
the seclusion of their own harems.
ionade, *mohalibé* (a species of inferior
nd fruit, were constantly handed about
the scene was altogether so amusing,
most with regret that I folded myself
cloak and veil, and bowed my farewell
roups which I passed on my way to the

unjust did I not declare that I witnessed
nnecessary and wanton exposure de-
dy M. W. Montague. Either the fair
vas present at a peculiar ceremony, or
dies have become more delicate and fas-
ideas of propriety.
exhaustion which it induces, and the
of time which it consumes, are the onl
can reasonably be advanced against th
ish bath.

CHAPTER IX.

Cheerful Cemeteries—Burial-ground of Pera—Superiority
Turkish Cemeteries — Cypresses—Singular Superstition
Grand Champ—Greek Grave-yard—Sultan Selim's
—Village of St. Demetrius—European Burial-ground—
stones—The Kiosque—Noble View—Legend of the
Tower—Plague Hospital of the Turks—The Plague-
Armenian Cemetery—Curious Inscriptions—Turkish
place—Distinctive Head-stones—Graves of the Janis
Wild Superstition—Cemetery of Scutari—Splendid
—Ancient Prophecy—Extent of Burial-ground—The
Dead—Exclusive Enclosures—Aspect of the Cemeter
the Summer Palace of Heybêtoullah Sultane—Local
tion—The Damnèd Souls.

I HAVE alluded elsewhere to the apparent ca
which the Turks select the most lovely spots for
ing their dead, and how they have, by such
divested death of its most gloomy attributes. Li
ancient Romans, they form grave-yards by the
side; and, like them, they inscribe upon their
the most beautiful lessons of resignation and
losophy.

The Cemetery of Pera offers a singular spectacl
the rather that the "*Champ des Morts*" is th
menade of the whole population, Turk, Frank,
and Armenian; the lesser burial-place, or *Petit C*
is sacred to the Musselmauns, and fringes with it
cypresses the crest of the hill that dominates the
it is hemmed in with houses, overlooked by a hu
casements, grazed by cattle, loud with greeting
gossipry, and commands an extensive view
shipping in the harbour and the opposite shore.

paths among the funeral trees; sunny glades
out amid the dark shadows; headstones clus-
inst the grassy slopes, and guard-houses, with
tals thronged with lounging soldiers, mocking
celessness of the dead. Nor must I forget to
the small octagonal building, which, seated in
depth of the valley, and generally remarkable
dense volume of smoke exuding from its tall
, marks the spot where the last profane duties
to the dead: where the body is washed, the
shorn, the nails are cut, and the limbs are de-
mposed, ere what was so lately a True Be-
laid to rest in the narrow grave, to be aroused
the sound of the last trumpet.

periority of the Turkish cemeteries over those
e may be accounted for in several ways. Their
nes are more picturesque and various, their
better chosen, and, above all things, the Mus-
never disturbs the ashes of the dead. There is
ng and reburying on the same spot, as with us.
ains of the departed are sacred.

a body is committed to the earth, the priest
cypress at the head, and another at the foot, of
e; and hence those far-spreading forests, those
'er-canopied cities of the dead, which form so
ble a feature in Turkish scenery. Should only
in six survive, enough still remain to form a
id solemn grove; but the Turks have a singular
ion with regard to those which, instead of
their tall heads towards the sky, take a down-
end, as though they would fain return to the
om whence they sprang; they hold that these
he damnation of the soul whose mortal re-
hey overshadow; and as, from the closeness
ich they are planted, and their *consequent* num-
h accid*ents are by no means rare,* it must be at
ost uncomfortable creed.

But it is to the "*Grand Champ*" that the
should direct his steps, if he would contempla
to which the world probably can produce no
Emerging from the all but interminable Hig
whose projecting upper stories form a canopy al
head for nearly its whole length, you have on
hand the plague-hospital for the Franks, and
right a stretch of higher land, which is th
ground of the Greeks. Here there is nothing
your steps; it is ill-kept, and, were it not for t
that surround it, would be dreary and desolat
very disorder. The Greek is the creature of
yesterday is blotted from his tablets.

Having passed the grave-yard, the road wi
an esplanade, in front of an extensive block of
erected by Sultan Selim as a cavalry barra
painted rose colour, has a noble entrance, and
a look of order and regularity almost Europea
not until you descend the gentle declivity th
onward to the great Necropolis, that you dis
whole extent of the edifice, which is a qu
having three fronts; its fourth side being dev
range of stabling.

The road to Therapia and the "Sweet Wate
the burial-ground; and the little Greek villa
lony of St. Demetrius covers an opposite heigl

The first plot of ground, after passing the b
the grave-yard of the Franks; and here you a
on all sides with inscriptions in Latin: injun

Dolma Batché, or, the Valley of the Gourds;
f the hill commanding a noble view of the
while, on the verge of the descent, and almost
the graves, stands a kiosque of wood, rudely
her, and serving as a coffee-room; and imme-
n front of it, a group of cypresses form a plea-
de, beneath which parties of Turks, Greeks, and
ans, seated on low stools, smoke their eternal
ques, sip their sugarless coffee, and contemplate
the loveliest views over which the eye of a painter
ngered.

m this height, the hill slopes rapidly downward,
ed with fruit-trees, and bright with vegetation.
s foot flows the blue Bosphorus, clear and spark-
as the sky, whose tint it rivals. Immediately
ss the channel stretches Scutari, the gem of the
an shore, with its forest of cypresses, its belt of
aces, its hill-seated kiosque, and its sky-kissing
narets. Further in the distance are two pigmy
nds, heaving up their dark sides from the bright
e, like aquatic monsters revelling in the sunshine;
ond is a stretch of sea, the Sea of Marmora, laugh-
in the light, as though no storms had ever rent its
om; while, above all, on the extreme verge of the
izon, almost blending with the dark purple clouds
t rest upon it, towers Mount Olympus, the dwelling
the gods, crowned with snows. And here, a little
the right (where Scutari, after advancing with a
uceful curve, as though to do homage to her Euro-
an sister, again recedes), upon a rock so small that
foundations cover the whole surface, stands the
Maiden's Tower;" an object in itself so picturesque
at it would arrest the eye though it possessed no
gend to attract the sympathy; but such is far from
ing the case.

This Tower, so runs the tale, *was erected by* a former
ultan, *as a residence for his only daughter*, of whom

it was foretold by the astrologers that she would, before the completion of her eighteenth year, be destroyed by a serpent. Every precaution was taken to overcome destiny; but it was not to be—an adder, accidentally concealed in a box of figs, fastened upon the hand of the princess, and she was found dead on her sofa.

The Maiden's Tower is now the plague-hospital of the Turks: and his heart must be atrophised indeed who can look around on the bright and beautiful scene amid which it stands, and not feel how much the bitter pang of the plague-smitten must be enhanced by the contrast of all around them with their own probable fate; for, alas! the long gaze of the sickening victim is too frequently his last! The dying wretch should pass to his infected home by a road of gloom and shadow, where no image of gladness can mock him by its intrusive and harrowing presence; but to be swiftly borne along that blue sea, with those magnificent shores stretching away into the distance, far beyond his failing vision; to be carried to his narrow chamber, probably to die—cut off from his fellow-men—from all the glory and the majesty around him; surely no after-pang can be so keen as that which grapples at his heart during his brief voyage to the Maiden's Tower!

Rapidly darts forward the slender caïque; it shoots from the shore like a wild bird: no sound of revelry, no shout of greeting, no pealing laughter, heralds its departure—the sturdy rowers bend to their oars; the resisting waters yield before the vigorous stroke—there is no pause—no interval—the errand is contagion—the freight is death! The eyes are dim that roll languidly in their sockets: the lips are livid that quiver with agony in lieu of words: the brow is pale and clammy that is turned upwards to the cloudless sky: the hands are nerveless that are flung listlessly across the panting breast; and as men watch from afar the rapid progress *of the laden boat*, their own breath comes thickly, and

eight. All around is life, and light, and
The surface of the channel is crowded with
with busy human beings, hurrying onward
f pleasure or of gain; a thousand sounds
ind. The swift caïques dart like water-
e Maiden's Tower, and few within them
ght upon the anguish which it conceals!
es from the spot whence you look down
arious scene; a few paces, and from the
dying you gaze upon the resting-place of
Where the acacia-trees blossom in their
shed their withered flowers upon a plain of
ne right hand, immediately in a line with
n cemetery, is the burial-ground of the

It is a thickly-peopled spot; and as you
ath the leafy boughs of the scented acacias,
our way among the tombs, you are struck
ularity of their inscriptions. The noble
haracter is graven deeply into the stone;
ate are duly set forth; but that which re-
menian slab (for there is not a head-stone
he cemetery) peculiar and distinctive, is the

may have been followed by either sex, immediately above the appropriate di guishes the grave of the man.

Nor is this all: the victims of a viol also their distinctive mark; and more in this extraordinary burial-place presen headless trunk of an individual, from throat the gushing blood is spirting u fountain, while the head itself is pillowe hands! Many of the more ancient ano are very richly and elaborately wrought, the modern ones are perfectly simple; a pass the spot without seeing groups of upon the graves beneath the shadow of ing, and even smoking. Death has no natives of the East.

The Turkish cemetery stretches alon the hill behind the barrack, and descen valley. Its thickly-planted cypresses shade, beneath which the tall head-sto white and ghastly. The grove is inter paths, and here and there a green gl sunshine, to glitter upon many a gilded into the thick darkness of the more cov for a moment you will almost think amid the ruins of some devastated city. rounded by what appear for an instant t fragments of some mighty whole—but deceived you; you are in the midst of a a City of the Dead. Those chiselled l that lie prostrate at your feet, or lean side as if about to fall, and which at t have seemed to you to be the shivered p mighty column; those turban-crowne rise on all sides; those gilt and letter beside them, are memorials of the depa *are of ancient* date; the earth has been

their base, and they have lost their hold: the others tell their own tale; the bearded Moslem sleeps beside his wife, the turban surmounting his head-stone, and the rose-branch carved on hers, define their sex, while the record of their years and virtues is engraven beneath. Would you know more? Note the form and folds of the turban, and you will learn the rank and profession of the deceased; here lies the man of law, and there rests the Pasha; the soldier slumbers yonder, and close beside you repose the ashes of the priest: here and there, scattered over the burial-ground, you may distinguish several head-stones from which the turbans have been recently struck off, so recently that the severed stone is not yet weather-stained; they mark the graves of the Janissaries, desecrated by order of the Sultan after the extinction of their body, who himself stood by while a portion of the work was going forward; and the mutilated turbans that are half buried in the long grass beside these graves are imperishable witnesses to their disgrace; a disgrace which was extended even beyond the grave, and whose depth of ignominy can only be understood in a country where the dead are objects of peculiar veneration.

Those raised terraces enclosed within a railing are family burial-places; and the miniature column crowned with a *fez*, painted in bright scarlet, records the rest of some infant Effendi. At the base of many of the shafts are stones hollowed out to contain water, which are carefully filled, during the warm season, by pious individuals, for the supply of the birds, or any wandering animals.

The Turks have a strange superstition attached to this cemetery. They believe that on particular anniversaries sparks of fire exude from many of the graves, and lose themselves among the boughs of the cypresses. The idea is at least highly poetical.

But Constantinople boasts no burial-place of equal

beauty with that of Scutari, and probably th
cannot produce such another, either as regard
or pictorial effect. A forest of the finest c
extending over an immense space, clothing
valley, and overshadowing, like a huge pall, th
of dead, is seen far off at sea, and presents an
once striking and magnificent. Most of the t
of gigantic height, and their slender and spiral
cutting sharply against the clear sky is graceful
expression. The Turks themselves prefer th
cemetery of Scutari to all others; for, accordin
ancient prophecy in which they have the most
faith, the followers of Mahomet are, ere the ter
of the world, to be expelled from Europe; and,
are jealous of committing even their ashes to t
ing of the Giaour, they covet, above all things,
in this Asiatic wilderness of tombs. Thus, y
year, the cypress forest extends its boundar
spreads further and wider its dense shadows;
tion after generation sleep in the same thickly-
solitude; and the laughing vineyard and th
glade disappear beneath the encroachments of t
yawning sepulchre; the living yield up their
the dead; the blossoming fruit-trees are swe
and the funereal and feathering boughs of
grave-tree tower in their stead.

It is not without a sensation of the most sole
that you turn aside from the open plain, and
the cheerful sunshine, to plunge into the deep
the silent forest; scores of narrow pathways in
in all directions; and, should you fail to foll
in your wanderings, your every step must be
grave. Here a group of lofty and turban-
columns, each with a small square slab of sto
base, arrests you with a thrill of sickening inte
that silent and pigmy slab tells you a tale o
each covers the severed head of a victim to wan

or state intrigue — Vizirs and Pashas, Beys and Effendis—the eye that blighted, and the brow that burned, are mouldering, or have mouldered there; the fever of ambition, the thirst of power, the wiliness of treason, and the pride of place; all that frets and fevers the mind of man, is there laid to rest for ever; and the stately turban towers, as if in mockery, above the trunkless head which festers in its dishonoured grave!

Those gilded tombs enclosed within their circling barrier are inscribed with the names and titles of some powerful or wealthy race that has carried its pride beyond the grave, and not suffered even its dust to mingle with that of more common men; the prostrate and perished columns on one hand have yielded reluctantly to time, and now cumber the earth in recordless ruin, while the stately headstones on the other, yet bright with gilding, and elaborate with ornament, point out to you the resting-places of the newly dead; the pomp of yesterday speaks far less sadly to the heart than the hoar and letterless remains of by-past centuries.

Suddenly a bright light flashes through the gloom; the warm sunshine falls in a flood of radiance, the more startling from the darkness that surrounds it, upon a limited and tree-less space, on which time or the tempest have done their work; and where withered boughs and shivered trunks, branchless and gray with moss, are prostrate among sunken tombs and ruined monuments.

Your spirit is oppressed, your eye is blinded, by that mocking light!

Here and there, upon the borders of the forest, a latticed pavilion of the brightest green, contrasting strangely with the cold, white, spectral-looking headstones which it overtops, causes *you to* turn aside almost in wonder; *but death is even there*; it is the tomb *of some beloved child, and* the slab within is

strown with flowers; flowers that ha
in anguish, and moistened with tea
breaking heart and the trembling h
them there!

I remember nothing more beautif
of the burying-ground of Scutari, fro
winds in front of the summer pala
Heybétoullah. The crest of the hill
of dark foliage, while the slope is only
with tress, which advance and recede
ful curves; and the contrast betwee
green of the cypresses, and the soft
young fresh grass in the open spac
produces an effect almost magical,
you as being more the result of art th
you convince yourself, by looking aro
to its extent alone that this noble
gloom, for its site is eminently pict
tiful. On one side, an open plain se
channel; on the other, it is boun
clothed with vines and almond tre
Scutari touch upon its border, and
its graves in the rear, while before
extent of cultivated land dotted with

Need I add that the Necropolis of
have described it, has also its local su
not; and the idea is so wild, and with
that I cannot pass it by without reco

Along the channel may be constan
aquatic birds of dusky plumage, sp
flight from the Euxine to the Pro
their restless course from thence
Black Sea, never pausing for a mo
weary wing on the fair green spots
them on every side; and it is only w
place in the Sea of Marmora, or swee
of the Bosphorus, that they fly shric

forest of Scutari for shelter; and these the Turks believe to be the souls of the damned, who have found sepulchre beneath its boughs, and which are permitted, during a period of elementary commotion, to revisit the spot where their mortal bodies moulder; and there mourn together over the crimes and judgment of their misspent existence upon earth; while, during the gentler seasons, they are compelled to pass incessantly within sight of the localities they loved in life, without the privilege of pausing even for one instant in the charmed flight to which they are condemned for all eternity!

My mind was full of this legend when I visited the cemetery; and I can offer no better apology for the wild verses which I strung together as I sat upon a fallen column in one of the gloomiest nooks of the forest, and amid the noon-day twilight of the thick branches, while my companions wandered away among the graves.

THE DAMNED SOULS.

Hark; 'tis a night when the storm-god rides
  In triumph o'er the deep;
And the howling voice of the tempest chides
  The spirits that fain would sleep:
While the clouds, like a sable-bannered host,
  Crowd the dense and lurid sky;
And the ship and her crew are in darkness lost
  As the blast roars rushing by.

Voices are heard which summon men
  To a dark and nameless doom;
And spirits, beyond a mortal's ken,
  Are wandering through the gloom;
While the thunders leap from steep to steep,
  And the yellow lightnings flash,
And the rocks reply to the *riot on high,*
  As the *wild waves o'er them dash.*

And we are here, in this night of fear,
Urged by a potent spell,
Haunting the glade where our bones are
Our tale of crime to tell;
We have hither come, through the midn
As the tempest about us rolls,
To spread 'mid the graves, where the ra
The feast of the Damnèd Souls.

Some have flown from the deep sea-cav
Which the storm-won treasures hold;
And these are they who through life wei
To the sordid love of gold;
No other light e'er meets their sight,
Save the gleam of the yellow ore;
And loathe they there, in their dark des
What they idolized before.

They have swept o'er the rude and rush
Bestrown with wreck and spoil,
Where the shrieking seaman writhed an
'Mid his unavailing toil;
And they rode the wave, without power
The wretch as he floated by;
And sighed to think, as they saw him si
What a boon it was to die!

Some were cast from the burning womt
Whence the lava floods have birth;
From fires which wither, but ne'er cons
The rejected one of earth;
And these are they who were once the p
Of the thirst that madmen know,
When the world for them is the diadem
That burns into the brow.

They who crouch in the deepest gloom
Where no lightning flash can dart,
Who, chained in couples, have hither c
And never can be rent apart;
These are they whose life was a scene c
And who learnt, alas! too late,
That the years flew fast which they cac
On the altar of their hate.

But, hark! through the forests there sweeps a wail
More wild than the tempest blast,
As each commences the darkling tale
Of the stern and shadowy past:
And the spell that has power, in this dread hour,
No pang of ours controls;
Nor may mortal dare in the watch to share
That is kept by the Damned Souls!

CHAPTER X.

Character of the Constantinopolitan Greeks—The Greek Colony at the Fanar—Vogoride, Logotheti, and Angiolopolo—Political Sentiment—Chateaubriand at the Duke de Rovigo's—Literary Criticism—Greek Chambers—"What 's in a Name?"—Custom of Burning Perfumes—The Pastille of the Seraglio—Turkish Cosmetics—Eastern Beauty.

THE more I saw of the Greeks, the more curious did I find the study of that page of the great volume of human nature which was there flung back; and, far from sharing in the astonishment of those who almost deem it a miracle that the whole nation has not been swept away, I rather marvel at the state of moral and political thraldom in which they exist. The tolerated citizens of an empire whose interests, both civil and religious, differ so widely from their own, the Fanariote Greeks nourish in their heart's core a hatred of their masters as intense as it is enduring, and serve them rather from fear than zeal.

Every Greek is an intuitive diplomatist; nature has endowed him with a keen and subtle spirit; a power to see deeply, and to act promptly; and as their motto is palpable to all who have studied their character—*tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis*—they are any thing but safe counsellors or firm friends. Each is to be had at a price: and, as several of the most talented among them are in the confidence of the leading members of the Turkish government, it were idle to expatiate on the pernicious consequences of their influence. There are so many spies in the camp, so many breaches in

, and with the helm of affairs, although not their grasp, at least sufficiently within their able them occasionally to make the vessel of r swerve towards the course whither they direct it, they are no contemptible allies to power that may need their services. The bly possesses the soundest judgment, but the ore subtle and quick-witted, and dazzles he may fail to convince.

ese circumstances, partially trusted by the enriched and employed by other nations— subtilty, energy of character, and that keen- eption and quickness of intellect for which markable—the Greeks would be dangerous, enemies, to their Moslem masters, had they chilles, one vulnerable point; they are not to each other. Dissimulation is the at- n which they live; jealousy is the food on r prey; and, while they are urging on the their own fortunes, they are sure to have ss rival impaled upon one of the spokes of in wheel. Hence, all those overwhelming which render the tenure of wealth and ho- ig them almost as precarious as among the nselves. The tolerance of the Sultan's go- as conceded to them a magistracy and an al power as distinct as though they were a and the denizens of a free country; and vd and subtle spirits, trammelled without, fold more bitter in their concentrated struggle acy among themselves. Their circle is li- eir hemisphere will afford space for one nly; to aggrandize one, another must be and thus it is a perpetual grappling for r, and public *property and* private friend- *way before it.*

k colony at the Fanar is the focus of

trigue; each is a spy upon his neighbour; here, indeed, "Greek meets Greek," and the "tug of war" is deadly. Patriarchs and archbishops are deposed and exiled; magistrates are displaced and banished, as one or the other party obtain power; until the concentration of hatred atrophises every heart, and the smile upon every lip waits but the opportunity to wither into a sneer.

With the double impulsion of honour and power among their own community, and wealth and influence without, it will be readily understood that a people constituted like the Fanariote Greeks pursue their purpose with a tenacity which blinds them to all less absorbing considerations. Each suffices to himself; he is his own world; and he centres all his energies and exertions upon one point. In this fact exists the weakness of the Greeks; they are too egotistical to be dangerous; they indulge individual selfishness when they should exert themselves for the common benefit of the community; the fruit is perished at the core, and it consequently decays upon the surface; and, while they thus make war upon each other, and fling the brand of jealousy upon the hearths of their own race, they require no exterior force to crush them.

The three most conspicuous individuals now left among the Fanariote Greeks are Vogoride, Logotheti, and Angiolopolo, each of whom is more or less in the confidence of the Porte. The war between these talented and ambitious men is literally a war of wits. The craft is with Vogoride, the energy with Logotheti, and the tenacity of purpose with Angiolopolo. The nature of each individual is written on his countenance; that of Vogoride changes like the hue of the camelеon; he is a man whose smile is not mirth, nor approbation, nor enjoyment; his brow is narrow and deeply interlined, less by time than by the workings of his spirit; his eye is cold and quick; but it is the quickness

ine and expressive, and his forehead high
marked; and to these no more striking
be afforded than by the truly magnificent
iolopolo. There is not a vestige of passion,
of anxiety, nor care, nor emotion perceptible
untenance is calm, benevolent, and beauow is singularly smooth for his age, and
r of placidity has continued unchanged
a long life of political exertion and excite-
the white beard, which he wears to the
h that is now permitted (Sultan Mahmoud
regulated this important point, and having
sl the exuberance of that of one of his ni-
his own Imperial hands!), gives him an air
al dignity in excellent keeping with his
ital costume.
een for twelve years Chargé d'Affaires at
g the reign of Napoleon, he has a memory
anecdote; and a vivacity of expression,
racy of detail, which make his portraits
d never fail to point the moral of the tale.
es fluently in French, and enters into the

scar and yellow leaf" without one storm to hasten decay.

After a long career of political toil, Angiolopo ostensibly retired into the calm and quiet of do life. I speak, therefore, of him rather as he was months back than as he now actually exists; t the fire which has been long burning requires th it can be thoroughly extinguished; and it is only infer that, after so many years of state service, A lopolo will carry with him the same tastes and pu to the grave.

Prepossessed by his appearance, I accepted pleasure an invitation to spend the day with his f and the more particularly as I was anxious to ma acquaintance of all those individuals who had b matter of local interest.

When I entered, he was seated in the o fashion on a corner of the sofa, with a small wr stand on a low stool beside him, and leaning hi upon a chest of polished wood containing papers received us with much politeness, and presente to his wife and daughter, who were nestled und covering of the tandour, on the other side of the ment, and who welcomed me in the most c manner.

For a time, nothing but the veriest commo was uttered by any of the party; but some pa allusion having been accidentally made, he exp himself both disappointed and annoyed at the s ness of the British Government; though he ad that it had caused him no surprise, as it was t first occasion on which England, after amusi deluding the Porte with promises of protectio support, had failed to fulfil her pledges in the h need. "As individuals," he added emphatically *one can respect* the English more than I do; bu *nation, every* thinking man throughout the O

lost faith in them; the trust and con-
ch the Turks once placed in the political
Great Britain are at an end for ever."
s an invalid, we dined *en famille*; and I
with the extreme attention and deference
ed towards his wife; all the other Greeks
I had become acquainted being the most
or, as we style it in Europe, the most
of husbands; nor was I less surprised at
zest with which he entered into the incon-
versation that ensued, and the playfulness
he bandied jest for jest, and plied anecdote
. One incident that he mentioned I may
out indiscretion, as it cannot, after such
ime, affect the individual who is its sub-
hose literary reputation is now too well
to be injured by the old-world histories of

olo was one day dining at the table of the
ovigo, when the work of Chateaubriand on
came the subject of conversation; the author
n a very young man, and but little known
l of letters, being one of the guests; and,
s under discussion, the Duke requested of
to give him his opinion on its merits. The
argé d'Affaires, aware that Chateaubriand
, and not wishing to pronounce a judgment
be displeasing to him, carelessly replied
nembered having met with the work some
ously: and thus sought to turn aside the
more particularly as, not being supposed
e of the vicinity of the author, he had no
orded him on the score of delicacy should he
an opinion tending to gloss over his real

Brute reply did not, however, satisfy the
expressed his astonishment that a native

the country on which the work was written should [illegible] so little interest in the subject as to retain no memory of its contents. Thus urged, Angiolopolo found himself compelled to declare that he had not only read the book carefully, but still retained the most perfect recollection of many of its passages; and that he had evaded the inquiry simply from a disinclination to speak with severity of a writer, who had permitted himself to describe the domestic manners of a people of whom he had only been enabled to judge from such specimens as coffee-houses, and the like places of vulgar resort, [illegible] offered to his observation.

That he should form erroneous opinions of the [illegible] from these low-bred and low-minded portions of the population might be pardoned, as the error of a [illegible] face-scanning and light-headed traveller; but that he should put them forth in sober earnestness to mislead wiser men, who did not possess the opportunity of forming a more correct judgment for themselves, was a graver and a more reprehensible fault, and one which no native of the East could easily forgive. Had he been honest, he would frankly have acknowledged that the doors of the higher classes were reluctantly and rarely opened to the Franks, who required the best introductions to secure an entrance into any distinguished house; both the habits and the position of the Orientals being unfavourable to the curiosity of strangers—and not have libelled a people of whom he really knew as little on his return to Europe as the day on which he landed at Stamboul.

"Chateaubriand has since become a distinguished writer;" he added in conclusion, "but I doubt not that often, amid his success, he has remembered the dinner at the Duke de Rovigo's, and his inexorable critic."

In anecdotes of this description, in which his powers *of memory* and his natural vivacity were equally up-

and we had consequently run time to
niscences.
ve previously remarked that the cham-
ek houses are generally arranged in the
is those of the Turks; that is to say, a
ses are heaped upon the floor without
it with the Greeks the coverlets are less
the pillows are less costly. In each, a
uously set out with conserves, generally
gnated with perfume, such as rose, ber-
citron; and covered goblets of richly-cut
with water. The custom appears sin-
ropean, but it is by no means unpleas-
nad not been long in the country ere I
of the servant, who knelt down at my
handed the tray to me on my awaking, a
one.
a name?" asks Juliet. I confess that to
spell in many; and among the Greek I
my sweetmeats the less that they were
by Euphrosyne or Anastasia; or my
tray was held by Demetrius or Theodo-

of Russia to the Princess Asmé, the Sultan's eldest [illegible] were several cases of Eau de Cologne.

The pastille of the seraglio, of which a large quantity has been presented to me by different Turkish and Armenian gentlemen, is a delightful invention, and [illegible] moreover, in its casing of gold leaf, extremely elegant; as it is somewhat costly, it is not in common use, but it is greatly prized in the harems.

Perhaps no country exceeds Turkey in the variety and value of its cosmetics: and, although there are no [illegible] prints to advertise their virtues, no ingenious puffs to expatiate on their properties, the ladies are by no means ignorant of their existence, but employ them all in their varieties; from the dye with which they darken their eyebrows, to the henna that disfigures the extremities of their fingers.

Among the fair Fanariotes the use of rouge is by no means uncommon; and they also carry to a greater extreme than the Turkish women the frightful custom of joining the eyebrows artificially across the nose, which mistaken habit I have seen many a really pretty face terribly disfigured. I am, however, bound to confess that the dearth of beauty among the Greek ladies is very striking; their expression is good, but their features are irregular, and ill-assorted; and, were it not that they have almost universally fine, sparkling, black eyes, they would be, taking them collectively, a decidedly plain race.

I looked in vain for the noble, calm, and pensive outline which we are prone to believe must characterize the whole people; for the finely-poised head, the pensive brow, the drooping eyelid, and, above all, the straight nose and short upper lip of genuine Grecian beauty; I met with it only in one instance, but in that one was a breathing model of the beautiful and ideal *in nature.*

The Fanariote ladies are bad figures, are by [illegible]

as to hands or feet, walk ungracefully, and
ble only, as I have already stated, for their
and their dark, lustrous hair.
are a much finer race, or rather there are
duals among them who have the distin-
ine of head which one looks to meet with
on; but the females have neither the sweet,
nating expression of the Turkish beauties,
, fresh, sparkling complexion of the Arme-
s, whose foreheads are frequently as snowy
hat binds them, and whose lips and cheeks
ushed roses.
ast lovely among them is the fair girl who,
f frolic, consented to be presented to an
eller (Mr. Auldjo), as a Turkish lady, but
of beauty is perfectly dissimilar from that of
which she personated; the dark eyes, the
d fingers, and the costume, which is essen-
ne as that of the harem, were, however, quite
deceive an unpractised eye: and the lively
o whom I was introduced at my express de-
ie tale of her successful deceit with a self-
y and enjoyment perfectly amusing.
nore mind, and less *embonpoint*, an Arme-
would be perfect

CHAPTER XI.

The Kourban-Bairam—Politeness of Mustafa Effen ing Recollections—Unquiet Night—Midnight Mas Coffee—A Latticed Arabs—The Mosque of Sulta Beautiful *coup-d'œil*—Dress of the Turkish Chi lessness of the Franks—The Festival of Sacrifice- Rite — The Turkish Wife — Sun-rise — Appear Troops — Turkish Ladies — Group of Field Of Sultan's Stud — Magnificent Trappings—The Ser —The Great Officers of State—The Procession—T Imperial Curiosity—The Cheïk Islam—Costume o —Japanese Superstition—Vanity of Sultan Ma Hairdresser of Halil Pasha—Rapid Promotion— lutations—Halil Pasha—Said Pasha—Unruly J Valley of the "Sweet Waters"—Pera.

THE Kourban-Bairam being fixed for th March, we crossed over to Constantinople on ing of the 27th, in order to be on the spot diminish the fatigue of the morrow. Musta who had removed with his harem to his coun very obligingly offered us the use of his m the night, as well as the services of his hou and a couple of servants; and we accordi ourselves once more at home beneath his roof.

I rejoiced that we required the accommo for some hours; as perhaps there are few t depressing than a stroll through the empty s chambers which you have associated with *memories of* mirth, and inhabitation, and s *The spacious* apartments gave back a hollow

wandered over their unearpeted floors, and
he casements of their uncurtained windows.
ambers which had been purposely and care-
ed for us were new and strange, being in a
rt of the house from that occupied by the
I I more than once regretted the absence of
s old man who had received me so kindly
visit.

failed to obtain a view of the procession
val of the Bairam, which terminated the
hen an apartment had been prepared for
int, of which we were unable to take pos-
ng to the density of the crowd, which filled
in its neighbourhood, and which we were
ntly early to precede; I was the more
to subject myself to a similar disappoint-
e present occasion; a feeling that was,
red by the whole party; and accordingly,
for the night, which we did at an early
re very sincere in our reciprocal promises
-diligent on the morrow.

t a night we passed! The cannon was
ong the water, and rattling in long-sus-
es among the hills; the myriad dogs that
ity, scared from their usually quiet rest,
ng, whining, and barking, without a mo-
rmission; and the Imperial band was per-
the streets, attended by flambeaux-bearers,
ing, with admirable precision, some noble
usic. The wind-instruments were relieved
by the drums and fifes, than which there
s, none better in the world: and these were
y the tramp, beneath our window, of the
son of the city, on foot and under arms two
daybreak.

d *the troops as they passed*, the flaring
wing them into broad light between the

ing, talking, and struggling over the rough
in a manner much more picturesque than
I had scarcely thrown myself once more
sofa, in order to court the sleep of which I
only dreamt, when the rattling of our heavy
into the court-yard, and the loud knock at the
which my Greek waiting-maid announced her
admittance, dispelled my hopes once more;
she entered, candle in hand, I resigned
my fate, and, having ascertained that it
four o'clock, made a hasty toilette, and joined
panions.

The warmest and strongest of coffee was
lowed,—by the way, what a sad pity it is that
nothing about making coffee in Europe,—
settled ourselves comfortably in our well-
arabs, Madame ——, myself, and our attend
soon jolting over the rough *pavé* towards the
action, followed by my father and the two
servants. The lattices of the carriage were
shut, to avoid any possible difficulty, owing
being Europeans: and one servant walked al

f spread far and wide its stainless canopy. trees that overshadow a portion of the ere just putting forth their young spring resh, and dewy, and tender; tokens of vegetation which may be blighted by too st, and which awakens in the heart such such fond associations; the spacious steps arble that stretch far in front of the prince of the mosque were crowded with human : exterior gallery that runs along the side ce on which the Sultan was to pass was vomen, whose white veils and dark *feridjhes* look like a community of nuns; while, of the military, groups were everywhere ifting, and producing the most interesting ects.

was a party of Jews; there, a knot of ; further on, a circle of Greeks; and close . cluster of women huddled together, and the hand their rosy children, whose appearance cannot more appropriately describe than by them to the sweets on May-day—such

spirits, never resting long on the same spot, a
ing many a quiet smile from their Moslem ne
who are never weary of marvelling at the
locomotion of the Giaours, so opposed to t
love of rest and quiet. Give a Turk a modera
position on such an occasion as this, and he v
abandon it on the bare possibility of procuring
but the Greek and the European fidget and fu
last moment, and very probably do not alw
by their pains.

The Kourban-Baïram, or Festival of Sacrif
from that which takes place at the conclus
Ramazan, by its greater pomp, and the circ
that, on the occasion of the present festival
are sacrificed to propitiate the favour of the
As we drove along the streets, they were crow
sheep and lambs about to be offered up.

Every head of a family sacrifices an ani
his own hands; and every male member of h
hold is at liberty to indulge his piety in a sim
ner; but the chief of the house is bound to ob
ceremonial.

.ourban-Bairam is the great sacrificial anni-
id is observed with much splendour and re-
all the population of the capital. The vessels
rbour are gaily decked out with flags; all
suspended; men grasp each other by the
ie streets, and utter a fraternal greeting; and
are seen hastening from house to house to se-
sh of the sacrifices, which is divided among
and the dogs of the city, scarcely less sacred
own kind in the eyes of the Osmanlis.
l of mine was told the other day by a Turk
n he is intimate, and who had just returned
ul after an absence of six months, that he
ained that while he was away from home his
not once quitted the house; a piece of intel-
nich so rejoiced him, that he sacrificed six
e for each month, in gratitude to Allah and
et, who had bestowed on him so virtuous a

glorious burst of light flooded the enclosure
sun at length clomb the horizon! It was
a time of human festival, but nature's own

to their very eyebrows, and the ill-cut clothing posed of the coarsest and dingiest materials.

But what shall I say of the officers? How describe the appearance of the gallant individ were constantly passing and repassing, and frequent pauses in our immediate vicinity thereto, as I have no doubt, by the presen lovely young Turkish ladies, who had quit carriage, and established themselves on the behind, in order to secure a better sight of the of the Sun," whom we were all anxiously and whose *yashmacs* were so gracefully, or s coquettishly, arranged, that I doubt whe would have been so attractive without the were of the whitest and clearest muslin, throu I not only saw the flowers that rested on t heads, and the diamonds that sparkled in th dered and richly-fringed handkerchiefs bou their heads, but even the very colour of And then the magic of their long, sleepy, eyes, and the constant flinging back and re the jealous *feridjhe*, by fingers white, an and henna-tipped! I really pitied the s Moslems.

I was still gazing at these lovely women party of about thirty field-officers passed the on their way to their places near the do Mosque, at which the Sultan was to enter. all similarly attired in surtout coats of Spani gathered in large folds at the back of the buttoned beneath a cloth strap; a very co ugly fashion among the Turks; and wore s richly embroidered with gold. Many among some of the stoutest men I ever saw.

In about five minutes after them arrive *horses of the* Sultan; and these formed by tw

splendid feature of the procession; they were ten in number, and wore on their heads a *panache* of white and pink ostrich feathers mixed with roses, and fastened down upon the forelock with a clasp of precious stones. Each was attended by a groom, controlling, with some trouble, the curvettings and capers of the pampered animals, who were caparisoned in a style of splendour which, if it have ever been equalled, can certainly never have been surpassed. Their housings, which were either of silk or velvet, all differing the one from the other, were embroidered with gold and silver, large pearls, and jewels. One of them bore, on a ground of myrtle-coloured velvet, the cypher of the Sultan wrought in brilliants, and surrounded by a garland of flowers formed of rubies, emeralds, and topaz. Another housing, of rich lilac silk, was worked at the corners with a cluster of musical instruments in diamonds and large pearls, and, as the sunshine flashed upon it, it was like a blaze of light. The remainder were equally magnificent; and the well-padded saddles of crimson or green velvet were decorated with stirrups of chased gold, while the bridles, whose embroidered reins hung low upon the necks of the animals, were one mass of gold and jewels.

The Sultan's stud was succeeded by the Seraskier Pasha in state, mounted on a tall gray horse (whose elaborate accoutrements were only inferior to those which I have just attempted to describe), and surrounded and followed by a dozen attendants on foot: his diamond-hilted sword, the rings upon his hands, the star in front of his *fez*, and the orders on his breast, were perfectly dazzling.

At intervals of about a minute, all the great officers of state passed in the same order, and according to their respective ranks; and at *length we heard* the welcome sounds of *the Imperial band, which struck up the Sultan's Grand March, as Mahmoud the* Powerful, the

Brother of the Sun, and Emperor of the Ea
the gates of the court.

First came twelve running footmen, in rich
uniforms, and high military caps; and these,
ceeded by the twenty body pages, who were
dressed, and wore in their shakos, plumes,
crêtes of stiff feathers, intermixed with artificia
of immense size, and originally invented to co
face of the Sultan as he passed along, and th
him from the Evil Eye! But his present
Highness is not to be so easily scared into conc
and the pages who were wont to surround h
cessors merely precede him, while a crowd of
officers supply their place, one walking at eac
stirrups, and the rest a little in the rear.

As this was the first occasion on which I had
Sultan, I leant eagerly forward upon my cush
obtain a good view of him; and I saw before
the distance of fifteen or twenty yards at the
man of noble physiognomy and graceful beard
sat his horse with gentlemanlike ease, and whos
tenance was decidedly prepossessing. He wor
fez an aigrette of diamonds, sustaining a ch
peacock's feathers; an ample blue cloak wa
across his shoulders, whose collar was one
jewels; and on the third finger of his bridl
glittered the largest brilliant that I ever remem
have seen.

As he moved forward at a foot's pace, loud a
"Long live Sultan Mahmoud!" ran along th
and were re-echoed by the crowd, but he did
knowledge the greeting, though his eyes wand
all sides, until they fell upon our party, when
smile lit up his features, and for the first time he
his head, and looked long and fixedly at us.
next instant, he bent down, and said somethi
subdued voice to the officer who walked at his

who, with a low obeisance, quitted his side, and hastily made his way through the crowd, until he reached our carriage, to the astonishment and terror of a group of Turkish women who had esconced themselves almost under it; and, bowing to my father, who still stood bareheaded beside us, he inquired of one of the servants who I was, and what had brought me to Constantinople; the Sultan, meanwhile, looking back continually, and smiling in the same good-humoured and condescending manner.

The reply was simple—I was an Englishwoman, and had accompanied my father to Turkey for the purpose of seeing the country; and, having received this answer, the messenger again saluted us, and withdrew.

A very short interval ensued ere he returned, and hurriedly and anxiously resumed his inquiries, to which our attendant became too nervous to reply, when he exclaimed, "Is there no one here who can act as dragoman, and give me the intelligence which is required by his Sublime Highness?"

"I will inform you of all that you require to learn, Effendim," said my companion, in her soft, harmonious Turkish; "the lady is English."

"His Highness sees that she is English," replied the officer; "but he wishes to know *who* she is."

This important information was added, and once more he departed.

Crowds of decorated individuals closed the procession; and in five minutes more Sultan Mahmoud dismounted and entered the Mosque.

The Chèïk-Islam, or High Priest, had preceded his Imperial Master; but we saw him only at a distance as he ascended the marble steps which I have already mentioned, and passed in through *the great* entrance. He wore a *turban of the sacred green, about* which was *wound a massive chain, or rather belt, of* gold; and

was mounted on a fine Arabian, whose bridl
by two grooms.

Sultan Mahmoud is not a handsome man,
is difficult to define wherefore; for his featur
and strongly marked, and his eye bright and
His jet black hair, seen in heavy curls beneat
which, like most of his subjects, he wears di
low upon his forehead; and his bushy and wel
beard, add considerably to the dignity of h
ance, as well as giving to him a look of mu
youth than he can actually boast; but this i
artificial advantage, being the effect of ce
skilful dyes so common in the East.

As in Japan, the popular belief is firm tha
never dies, so in Turkey the sovereign is never
to imagine that he can grow old; and thus e
of the household stains his hair and beard, a
the means with which art or invention can su
in order that no intrusive symptom of age or
shock the nerves and awaken the regrets
and contemporary—the faded beauties of th
are removed from his sight, the past is seldo
to, and the future is considered as his sur
doubted heritage.

Never did monarch lend himself to the deli
more lovingly than Sultan Mahmoud; wh
his energy of character, is the victim (for ir

he withdrew his *fez*, and inquired of his son-in-law, Halil Pasha, if he approved of the style in which it had been done. The favourite, with a sincerity which did him honour, replied that the Imperial Head had been most basely shorn; and was forthwith desired to display the honours of his own cranium to his Sublime Highness, who immediately acquiesced in the superior skill of the artist who had operated upon the Pasha; and desired that, without a moment's delay, the happy mortal who had exhibited such distinguished taste in curling and cutting should be summoned to his presence.

In five minutes, half a dozen of the palace officers were *en route* in search of the *coiffeur*, who was accidentally from home: and it was not until after a considerable delay that he was discovered, basin in hand, and razor in grasp, busily engaged in shaving the head of a grave-looking Armenian, who had already undergone half the operation. Despite the lathered skull of the customer, and the terrified deprecations of the *artiste*, the officers, who were utterly ignorant of the Sultan's motive for summoning their prisoner, pounced upon him without mercy, and rather dragged than conducted him to the caïque which was waiting to convey him to the palace; whither he was followed by the silent and pitying wonder of the men and the low wailing of the women.

On his arrival, he was immediately led into the Imperial presence, where his trembling knees instinctively bent under him, as he wildly gasped out his innocence of any and every crime against His Sublime Highness; he wrung his hands; he implored a mercy for which he scarcely dared to hope; he writhed in his agony of spirit, expecting nothing less than the bowstring for some imputed delinquency; and he *talked of* his wife and his young *and helpless children so soon to be* [illegible] *the world unless his life* were spared; while

Sultan laid aside his *fez*, and prepared his
a more simple operation.

"Peace, fool!" said His Highness at
you not cut the hair of Halil Pasha?"

"I did, your Sublime Highness; an
of my poor skill," faltered out the
rified *artiste;* "have mercy upon my w
ledge!"

"Compose your nerves and produce
returned the Sultan; "you shall hav
guished honour of cutting mine also;
at once."

No sooner said than done; men of t
been gifted with ready wit and self-posse
days in which the red-robed ghost of the
ber shaved the adventurous student in
castle; and ere long His Imperial Highne
and curled to his sublime satisfaction;
dresser found himself appointed keeper
the Turkish Empire—a "man of mark"-
to his home in triumph, not only *quitte*
but with his wildest visions realized!

During the short period that the Sulta
the mosque, the scene around us was
amusing: the horses were paraded to
troops rested on their arms, and conver
each other; the officers, breaking thro
that had lately bound them, resumed t
their scrutiny; and many a glance was di
our little party, for which we were indeb
riosity of their Imperial Master. Then ca
the great entrance of the mosque; and,
red-capped and turbaned Turks had iss
Cheïk-Islam slowly descended the steps,
in the same state as he had come. Th
led back into their ranks: the milita
their muskets; and once more the S

ith his train of attendants paced slowly along the
ne.

Those officers who were of sufficiently high grade to
ttract his attention made their graceful obeisance,
st laying their right hand upon their lips, and then
on their foreheads, and bowing down nearly to the
rth; while the Pashas, who were not of a rank
evated enough to appear mounted before the Sultan,
oved amid the throng, with their diamond orders
d embroidered sword-belts glittering in the light.
mong these was Namik Pasha, whom I had known
England, and who approached the carriage to
eet me; while the Seraskier reined up his horse
eath the window of a house that overlooked the
ne, and paid his compliments to Madame de
tenieff, who sat there surrounded by secretaries
attachés.

ne by one, all the Pashas re-appeared, and, having
ted each other with a ceremonious etiquette which
nctly marked their respective ranks, they mar-
led themselves round the gateway according to
precedence of power; and then it was that I
cularly remarked the unpleasant effect of their
ved hands, so utterly inconsistent, according to
ean ideas, with the magnificence of all the other
of their costume.

a happy, though not altogether singular, co-
ice, the husband of one of the princesses, and
ended husband of the other, are both the adopted
the old Seraskier; and as they took their places
r side of him, they naturally excited consider-
ention.

Pasha is a good-looking man, but clumsily
racefully made, with a grave expression of
ance; which, if *report speak truly*, the tem-
his *Imperial helpmate is not* calculated to

Having mentioned the Princess S well introduce in this place a little an veracity my informant pledged himsel Highness, on one occasion, only a fi chanced to pass in her araba by a c which a party of Ulemas, about thirty gravely smoking their chibouques. I individual among them remarked th Imperial carriage; and they consequ seated, as though the owner of the c been the Cousin of the Sun and Moo of the principal constellations. The re was unbounded; and she instantly d her *kavashlir* for an armed guard, t orders to convey the whole party to t Seraskier, to receive the bastinado respect which they had displayed to person. To hear was to obey; an thirty Ulemas, members of the most men now existing in the empire, wer the Seraskier; to whom, on their a court of the palace, it was immediatel a formidable group of Ulemas, atten of soldiers, were approaching, as i audience of his Excellency.

The Seraskier, anxious as to the visit, ordered that they should insta and, suspicious of some popular dis upon giving them a most courteous he was struck dumb by the intell were prisoners sent to receive the pu crime! For a moment even the fault; but, suddenly looking towa smiling countenance, and affecting r lowering brows of the outraged pr *Imperial* Highness has condescende *with me;*" he said gaily. "Sh

I should pay dear for some unpalatable advice which I ventured to give her, and you are to be the medium of her vengeance. I comprehend the jest, and must abide by her good pleasure." Then, turning to his purse-bearer, he desired him to count out one hundred piastres to each individual, which was accordingly done, and the discomfited Ulemas left the palace.

But the affair might have proved to be the very reverse of a jest in its consequences, and this the Pasha well knew when he ventured to set at nought the orders of the Princess. He accordingly lost no time in obtaining an audience of the Sultan, to whom he explained the whole circumstance. His Highness, after commenting gaily on the expedient of the Seraskier, and causing steps to be taken to ascertain that the aggrieved parties harboured no thoughts or designs of revenge, sent a stern message to his Imperial daughter, in which he warned her not to attempt on any future occasion to bastinado his learned and faithful subjects thirty at a time.

Said Pasha, the affianced bridegroom of the Princess Mihirmah, is decidedly the handsomest man at court, as well as one of the youngest; he has fine eyes, a prominent and well-shaped nose, and a smile of peculiar sweetness.

A burst of martial music again warned us of the approach of the Sultan, and, as he moved along on his proud steed, which tossed its partycoloured trappings and flashing jewels in the clear sunshine, he cast towards us another look and another smile. For a few minutes, nothing of the pageant remained to us save its memory; if, indeed, I except the wild and whose thrilling music, as they marched past, horses, which began to rear and kick in a manner that we were glad to drive [illegible] way through "The Valley of

Waters," along the banks of the sparkling and past the Imperial Kiosques which rise palaces from the soft turf of that lovely spo turned, amid the freshness and beauty of a in spring, to our residence at Pera.

CHAPTER XII.

The Military College—Achmet Pasha and Azmi Bey—Study of Azmi Bey—His grateful Memories of England and the English—The Establishment—The Lithographic Presses—Extemporaneous Poetry—Halls of Study—Number of Students—Mathematical Hall—The Sultan's Gallery—The Mosque—The Mufti—The Turkish Creed—The Retiring-Room—The Gallery of the Imperial Suite—The Refectory—The Professor of Fortification—The Hospital—Deficiencies of the College—Courtesy of the Officers—Moral Condition of the Professors—The Turks a Reading People—Object of the Institution—Reasons of its Failure—Smiling Enemies—Forlorn Hope—Russian Influence—Sadak Agha—Achmet Pasha—Azmi Bey—Apology for my Proximity.

The Military College, which, from its extent, and the lavish liberality of its arrangements, may well be termed a princely establishment, occupies the crest of a hill immediately above the Imperial palace of Dolma Batché; and the tall minaret of its mosque shoots upwards into the blue heaven with the grace and lightness of a sky-winged arrow; while the gilded crescent in the centre of the dome reflects back the sparkling sunbeams as they flash upon its glittering surface.

As I had brought an introductory letter to Achmet Pasha, the governor, and had been personally acquainted in London with Azmi Bey, the Military Commandant, and, in fact, Principal of the Institution, I experienced no difficulty whatever in obtaining permission to pay it a visit; and I accordingly proceeded, accompanied *by my father and a cou*

friends, who were, like myself, anxious to form a correct opinion of the establishment.

We were met at the great entrance by the Bey himself, who welcomed us with the most cordiality; and, offering me his arm with politeness quite European, he conducted us to private apartment, or, perhaps, I should rather study. This very cheerful and comfortable room ated at an angle of the building, and commanding magnificent points of view, was thickly hung English and French engravings, principally in our metropolitan buildings, college-halls, theatres other places of public resort, highly coloured; stove gave forth an agreeable warmth; the seats were strown with books and papers; a few were lying upon a side table; a curious collection volumes was gathered together in a small book and the apartment had altogether a more furnished snug look than any which I had yet seen, bited by a Turk; there were flowers also in a glass and a paper-presser on which a sleeping Cupid stretched listlessly among his fabled roses—the gift of an European friend.

We remained some time talking over past days I was sincerely pleased by the fond and grateful ner in which he spoke of England and his E acquaintance. He reminded me of several little b incidents, inquired for particular individuals, an hibited a warmth of feeling and interest in the p which I was scarcely prepared. During the con tion, tea was handed to us in the Russian fashi his dragoman, attended by two negro slaves, and partaking of it we commenced our survey of the lishment.

The main building forms three sides of a squar the centre of the fourth is occupied by an elega

on that, before we quitted the apart-
ley, he presented to us several of the
ntered to pay their respects. Among
emarkable was Saduk Agha, a Prus-
o speaks French, Italian, and Turkish
a considerable knowledge of English.
with him for some time on the merits
nd examining a number of drawings,
ary figures, which had been executed
the establishment, and among which
nsiderable merit; he joined his en-
of Azmi Bey that I would write a few
of my visit, which they might put under
ing that they were both determined to
considering the point worthy of con-
d with the request, not a little amused
rance in print in Turkey; and I much
ything that I have hitherto written,
, or may hereafter write, will ever be
with so much apparent *gusto* as the
f doggerel verse which I improvised on a
er, *sur la plaste des pieds*, surrounded

whole depth of the hall, leaving a passag
just sufficiently wide for the ingress
visitors; and the first ranges of seats wer
about one hundred and fifty of the junk
were busily employed in tracing upon
elegant characters of their language, as
sentence was slowly declaimed by the h
class. This department of the institu
Lancasterian system.

There are at present only three hundr
the establishment; a report having bee
by its enemies that an attempt would b
terfere with their religious tenets; in
which many parents declined sending
only answer of the Governors to this cal
to compel the attendance of the boys thr
at the mosque; a tolerably convincing
entertain no anti-Mohammedan partialiti

As the school is expressly intended a
the army, all the ambition of the stude
bear upon that point: extraordinary
regularity of conduct, is recompensed
military rank; and thus, should the in
authorities ever be borne out, a youth
good conduct may hereafter quit the col
cer, and thus commence his actual caree
many of his predecessors have terminate

Having traversed the Lancasterian cl
the mathematical hall, where a consider
young men were busily engaged in colc
plans of the surrounding country. Th
this stately apartment forms a deep ba
rows of seats are arranged amphitheat
in the midst of them a table whereon ar
charts, and all the requisites for study.

tremity of the hall is terminated by a
intended for the use of the Sultan, alo

in oils, executed by an Armenian artist, crude, and wiry, as though it had been the of a Chinese easel, and surmounted by borate drapery. Beneath the portrait is noble map of the Archipelago, the Sea of and the Bosphorus. An electrifying ma- large map of America, an immense table, ks and seats of the students, made up the f the furniture; and the apartment itself was nest that I had yet seen in the country.

point of curiosity was the mosque; and I surprised than gratified at the readiness with i Bey acceded to our desire of visiting it. apartment, or vestibule, was covered with matting, and before we traversed it the Bey ny father to put off his boots, though he jection to my retaining my slippers. As we e door which opened into the body of the perceived that we had arrived during the he High Priest sat with his arms folded mple robe; his dark brow surmounted by he sacred green, and his feet doubled under cess facing the entrance, chanting in a nasal onous drawl; while a very slender congrega- attered over the floor, squatted upon the rich t covered it. But we no sooner made our than the Mufti rose and quitted the mosque, his little flock; and we were left in quiet of the elegant temple whence they had so drawn.

h of the Musselmauns is that of love, not lieve in One GOD, and to be charitable— nall deny that it is a comprehensive creed? e in which we stood was the very embodi- h a worship; the sunshine *streamed* through indows *upon the most delicate* fresco-paint-

the marble steps leading to the pulpit; al
dazzlingly bright, and it was almost with
returned into the vestibule, in order to a
Sultan's gallery.

A small hall and a handsome flight of s
covered with English carpeting, conduct
elegant anti-room, from which four door
draperies of dove-coloured cloth heavily fri
into as many apartments, appropriated t
and his suite.

The Imperial closet is richly hung wi
loured draperies, which fling a sunset glow
rounding objects: a magnificent sofa occu
of the room, and the floor is covered wit
carpet. Portions of the gilded lattice ope
pleasure; and the whole has so perfectly
effect that you involuntarily think of Sche
her fable-loving Sultan; and forget the
the place, while contemplating the luxu
rangement.

The gallery appropriated to the Impe
joins the closet, and beyond this is the

rollers—lads were folding the printed sheets—and binders were stitching them into volumes. Everything was clean, and orderly, and well conducted.

We next made a tour of the hospital; and, had not two of the beds been tenanted, I should have quitted the establishment, if not with a firm conviction, at least with a very strong suspicion, that it was intended merely for show, it was so delicately clean and so beautifully arranged.

At the head of the stairs was the receiving-room of the surgeon; and beyond this, on either side of the gallery, were the laboratory and the surgery, their doors veiled with white muslin, and every article in its place; the dormitories, which are only two in number, each capable of containing about a score of patients, were carpeted along the centre; the beds were tastefully draperied with muslin: and a small table stood near each pillow; while along the cornice of the ceiling were suspended, at regular distances, small tablets, whereon were inscribed the names of the different diseases to be treated in the ward.

The refectory was perfectly European in its aspect, surrounded by long narrow tables and benches, and well supplied with plates, spoons, forks, and soup-ladles. As we entered, Azmi Bey looked towards us confidently for applause. He had truly worked a goodly reform in Turkish habits, when he taught each boy to put his fork into his own plate, instead of plunging his fingers into the dish of the community! Nor did we fail to compliment him on the change.

By the time we had completed our survey of the establishment, our "tail" would have been no contemptible rival to that of Mr. O'Connell—every professor and officer connected with the institution having made his bow, and joined the *party*. And not the least conspicuous *of the number was the Professor of Fortification, who, besides being a creole*, had one of

nost frightful and resolute squints I ever [illegible]
ortune to meet with; and the Captain o[illegible]
ard, a very corpulent and consequential [illegible]
ck officers and soldiers are, however, comm[illegible]
key, where a man's colour is never constru[illegible]
objection to profit by his services, nor an [illegible]
leaving them unrewarded.

Having described in detail the external arrang[illegible]
the Military College of Turkey, it now rem[illegible]
ie to advert to its moral condition, and this is th[illegible]
nelancholy task; for, rich as I have shown it to [illegible]
ll the outward attributes necessary to such an E[illegible]
ishment, it is utterly destitute of the more es[illegible]
requisites for insuring the important end of its [illegible]
ation.

Care and cost have been lavished upon it [illegible]
ingly: it is a favourite toy of the Sultan—a [illegible]
of ceaseless thought and interest to Achmet Pa[illegible]
whose immediate control it has been entrusted—
one engrossing object of Azmi Bey's solicitude—
Great National Scholastic Establishment—the [illegible]
for the Imperial Army. But, alas! despite all t
advantages, it is like the statue of Pygmalion
was warmed to life—a body without a soul—
without mind—a splendid machine, without a
petent and practised hand to call forth its powe
to work out its effects!

To the courtesy of the several individuals
diately connected with the institution, I have
borne testimony; nor does a doubt exist in
mind of their sincere zeal for its welfare and pro
But, unhappily, the best intentions, and t
earnest enthusiasm, must fail to compensate th
deficiency of that talent and experience nec
its success. Could sentiment be deepened int
and inclination be wrought into ability, the
College would take high ground; for the w

he pursuit of knowledge; but, where the
e limited, the effects must be comparatively
ient: and it is a melancholy truth that the
application, the admirable docility, and the
g talents of the pupils, can only conduct them
rtain point, beyond which their best efforts
t enable them to progress unassisted. This is
particularly the fact as regards the youth of
, from the circumstance of their being by nature
ive rather than inventive; and, moreover, not
sing those opportunities of observation and indi-
l research which lead the students of Europe
ly in no trifling degree upon their own mental
arces.

n our western world the wings of Genius are never
ped—the sunny path of Talent is never oversha-
red—the calm brow of Science is never clouded—
a deficiency in the means of further improvement,
ouragement, and support. But Education, as we
prehend the term, is yet in its first infancy in
key; and should the same evil influence, which
ow blighting with its Upas breath the Ottoman
osphere, be long suffered to exhale its poisonous
perties, it is certain to annihilate all power of im-
vement.

Perhaps, with the single exception of Great Britain,
re exists not in the world a more reading nation
n Turkey. I have no doubt that this assertion will
rtle many individuals in Europe, who have been
ustomed, and, indeed, led to believe, that the natives
he East are, as a people, plunged in the profoundest
orance. It is, nevertheless, a fact that nearly every
n throughout the empire can read and write, and
t there are at this moment upwards of eight thou
d children scattered through the *different* schoo
the capital. *But the studies of the Osmanli* of h
with some few exceptions, hitherto b

confined to the Korân, and to works of an [illegible] and useless description; the mere plaything of an hour, incapable of inspiring one novel idea, or leaving upon the mind impressions calculated to [illegible] or to enlighten it.

The object of such an institution as a Public School was undoubtedly to widen the mental views, and enlarge the tastes, of the youth of Turkey. But in order to effect this very desirable end, it was requisite that the soundest judgment should be exercised in the selection of the individuals to whom were committed its different departments of literature and science; but this was unfortunately far from being the case; the internal economy of the establishment having been entrusted to persons so decidedly incompetent that with every desire to do their duty, they have erred from their utter ignorance of the extent of the task which they have undertaken, or which has been forced upon them.

As far as the different professors are capable of it, doing, they have directed the studies and formed the tastes of the students; but the young and ardent mind, thirsting after knowledge, and earnest in its acquirement, demands assistance as progressive as its own advancement. The fresh and buoyant spirit requires external aid, at once able and judicious, to support its vigour, and to strengthen its yet unpractised wing. And where these fail, where the shadow is alone furnished, while the substance is wanting, what can be expected from the comparatively unassisted efforts of young and unformed intellects, which have not simply to struggle onward towards a goal to be attained only by their best energies; but also to contend against, and to cast from them, a crowd of early prejudices and associations—while they are destitute of the assistance *of more* experienced and mature talents, upon which

ack, when they have themselves just acquired
t knowledge to feel their own deficiencies.
not be believed for an instant that the Turks,
y been left to the free exercise of their own
ıse and reflection, are so obtuse as not to have
ıe discovery that the progress of the pupils was
ily retarded by the inexperience and incompe-
the preceptors. He who judges thus hastily
ong them. Already had the suspicion sprung
heir minds; already did those on whom the
y for so doing more particularly devolved, sug-
expediency of procuring from Europe men
, science, and judgment, capable of sustaining
lit of the establishment. But the project was
in the bud; negatived on its first suggestion;
e by a single sentence; *that* sentence which
ome all-powerful in Constantinople—and thus
ı of the institution is already sealed by the in-
of its professors, the prejudices of its enemies,
lavish and deceitful encomiums of its false

ıet Pasha has been told that never did estab-
t prosper like the Military College of Constan-
A foreign minister has declared it perfect;
sequious secretaries and *attachés* have raised
nds and eyes in almost religious wonder. Com-
s have been lavished on the meagre talents of
ters, and smiles have veiled their deficiencies.
ıs, flattered into a belief of their own sufficiency
one hand, and misled by misstatements on the
he influential individuals connected with the
y College have abandoned it to the ruin which
timately, and at no distant period, overtake it;
ıe hopeless incapacity of a set of men, who,
with the name of every science under Heaven,
ıt of them *profoundly ignorant of all* save the

first rudiments of each; and who are, consequently, calculated to work that great moral change so ardently desired by all the true friends of Turkey.

I put forth this assertion boldly, because I [illegible] convinced myself of its justice; and if, after having stated the eagerness with which the students seek to acquire information, the care and cost that have been lavished on the College itself, and the zeal and unceasing watchfulness of those to whose charge it has been entrusted, I am asked the simple question of where this great National Institution is crippled in so senseless and ruinous a manner by the appointment of inefficient individuals to its most important and responsible posts, the answer is ready—It is the will of Russia!

The growth of knowledge is the destruction of tyranny and oppression: it is the moral axe struck to the root of the wide-spreading Banian of usurpation and encroachment: it is the light of mind, dispelling the darkness of prejudice and falsehood.

Were Turkey once roused to a perfect estimate of her own moral power, she must inevitably cast off the web that has been slowly and craftily woven about her; and which, should no friendly hand disentangle its intricate threads ere it be yet too late, must ultimately fetter her strength beyond all power of resuscitation. To do this she must take an enlarged and correct view of her position; she must be able to appreciate her just value among the nations; she must be capable of combating sophistry with caution, and craft with calculative wisdom. This power she can only acquire by placing herself upon a mental equality with more civilized Europe; by training up her youth to habits of reflection and scientific research; by awakening within their breasts the generous emulation *of excellence;* and by opening before them paths of

and advancement, no longer to be trodden by
k foot of chance, but sacred to superior merit
erior genius.
his must Turkey accomplish, ere she can once
e great and free. And it is to prevent this that
til policy of her arch-enemy, Russia, strains
erve and exerts every energy; the blandish-
of a flattery, to which she is constitutionally too
ble for her real welfare; the threats of a
beneath which she is unfortunately already
almost to the dust: for should some generous
f honour be aroused to resistance, there is the
erable declaration—*L'Empereur le veut!* be-
hich there is no appeal.

Russia looked upon the College with a jealous
might, if suffered to progress towards perfec-
checked, ultimately become a great moral en-
the hands of the Turkish government; and this
course, not to be permitted. The Russian Le-
consequently took an overwhelming and most
s interest in all the details of the establishment;
l to scorn the necessity of European science and
an assistance, where native talent was so rife;
red her creatures in writing complimentary and
e panegyrics on the institution, which were
aphed at the school, and translated for the Sul-
nd, in short, administered such copious draughts
tery to all connected with the establishment,
eir soporific effects are painfully apparent in the
self-gratulatory, smiling satisfaction of those
hile they believe that they are nursing the new-
nstitution into vigour, are actually closing their
ing arms so tightly about its throat, that they
ngling it in its first weakness.
school has but one hope; *and that is unhappily*
d afar *off. There are now between thirty and*
romising young men studying in Europe, who

may perchance one day be enabled to
suscitation. But years must elapse ere th
pupils are eligible to become preceptors
those years are past, what may be the fat
England must resolve the question.

At present it is certain that the Milit
indirectly under Russian control and p
the professors having been selected open
by themselves. And thus, one indivi
limited remuneration of about £200
having the fear of ridicule before his
undertakes to impart to his pupils the
some half dozen sciences, among which g
astronomy are far from being the most
conspicuous.

Saduk Agha, of whom I have already
man of distinguished abilities, who, had
fered to do so, might have materially
studies of the pupils: but this point wou
too mighty for Russian policy to conce
was not judged prudent to exclude him al
thus draw down remarks which might ha
convenient, his services were secured a
150*l.* a year to teach the Prussian gam
Jeu de Guerre, which is a species of diss
map, put together precisely like the pu
children in England.

Achmet Pasha (to whom, as I have

f the Military College, Director of the
ter of the Artillery, Head of the Police,
Architecture, *pro tempore* Lord of the
vernor of Natolia; in short, he either
e, an universal genius.
Military Commandant, with a zeal
a willing prisoner almost constantly
f the college, and an enthusiasm
ilties nor disappointments have yet
rtheless, too young and too inexpe-
l to meet efficiently the weighty re-
as been thrust upon him; and for
ed to a quickness of observation, an
nprovement, and a facility of imita-
nd developed by his brief residence
at he was competent to effect, he has
ied; for he has reduced to order the
ig prejudices, and associations, and
: him, Hydra-headed, on the very
sk. From his limited experience of
and manners, he has also profited
ible him to adopt much that was
n; while, on the other hand, he has
l much of which the utility and de-
t best problematical. The easy, I
fectionate, manner of all around him
nce that he is gentle in his rule;
ess with which he interests himself
te details connected with the estab-
ial proof of his unfeigned desire for
he brevity of his European sojourn,
of ideas, and hurry of mind, conse-
nce in London during the height of
apidity with which he was whirled
naval colleges *to railroads* and ma-
museums and libraries to public
ces; could scarcely, even with the

most ceaseless efforts on his own part, have [illegible] opportunities for study, or time for reflection [illegible] search, calculated to render him the efficient [illegible] spring of so complicated and delicate a piece of [illegible] chinery as a great national academy.

I fear that I have been prolix on the subject of [illegible] interesting establishment, which might have [illegible] a moral sceptre in the hand of a future Sultan [illegible] which is now "a vain shadow" and "a white [illegible] sepulchre;" but it is impossible not to feel [illegible] cruel wrong committed by the false sophist [illegible] smiling enemy, towards a confiding and [illegible] people; yet was my sympathy unmingled [illegible] prise. Did not Russia refuse to allow the [illegible] ratify the engagements entered into by Ru[illegible] with the European officers whom he had [illegible] the service of the Sultan? And was it prob[illegible] she would permit a nearer and a more certain [illegible] without an effort to annihilate it?

One more question, and I have done. Will [illegible] traveller in Turkey, fifty years hence, have [illegible] to tell of the Military College of Constantinople? [illegible] I doubt it.

CHAPTER XIII.

Mustapha Pasha of Scodra—The Caïque, and the
low to Travel in a Caïque—Hasty Glances—Self-
- Scutari — Imperial Superstition—The Seraglio
a Batchè—Beshiktash—The Turning Dervishes—
The Kiosques—A Dilemma—A Ruined Palace—An
—A Turkish Beauty—A Discovery—A New Ac-
The Buyuk Hanoum—Fatiguing Walk—Palace of
sha—The Harem—Turkish Dyes—Ceremonies
—Turkish Establishment—The Buyuk Hanoum—
lets—The Imperial Firman—Pearls, Rubies, and
The Favourite Odalique—Heyminè Hanoum—A
on Politics—Scodra Pasha—Singular Coinci-
nience of the Turkish Kitchen—Luxury of the
try of the Chibouque—Turkish Mode of Lighting
its—Gentleness towards the Slaves—Interesting
s—Domestic Details—Dilaram Hanoum—A Para-
arls—A Turkish Mirror—A Summons—Scodra
es for Revolt—The Imperial Envoy—Submission
of the Pasha's Son—The Reception Room—
pearance of the Scodra Pasha—Inconvenient
nversation on England—Philosophy—Pleasant
Plague-Smitten.

ED by a Greek lady of my acquaintance,
ne fine morning on board our caïque, to
o the wife and daughter of Mustapha
dra. As his palace was situated in a
r of the city, and we were anxious to
cessity of rattling over the rude and
ment of the streets in an araba, we re-
tch out beyond the Seraglio Point; and,
walls which are now crumbling into ruin
ast, di*sembark at Yani-capu,* or the New

Our sturdy rowers accordingly
and the arrowy caique shot across
into the wider sea beyond, like a wi
men were clad in their summer gar
lay bright upon the water, and scar
murmured among the dark branc
groves. They wore shirts of mus
large hanging sleeves, and bordere
with a narrow scalloping of needle
trousers were of white cotton, and
were only partially covered by sma
cloth, with pendent tassels of pur
were bare.

My companion and myself occupi
along the bottom of the boat; the
as well as the safest way to travel i
from its peculiar formation, is liab
the slightest imprudence; while
with his legs folded under him, was
stern of the boat, immediately behi

What pretty peeps we had as we
Seraglio gardens, through the mar
contrived for the gratification of
What magnificent glimpses of dom
bursting foliage, of marble founta
kiosques! But, alas! how vain mu
luxurious inventions of the most lu
to insure happiness to the tenan
prison! I looked around me on
were sporting upon the wave—abo
clouds that were sailing over the b
the distance where a shoal of dolphi
almost above the water; and as I
the swift caique, while it was gen
down by the current of the Sea of
how rapidly we sped along, I breatl
giving that I too was free! Free to

or to reject—to gaze in turn upon every bright
autiful scene of nature, untrammelled and un-
ned—that no Sultan could frown me into sub-
—no Kislar Agha frighten me into hypocrisy;
t, that I was not born a subject of his Sublime
ss, Mahmoud the Powerful.
our left, rose the lordly mountain of Bulgurlhu
above Scutari, whose shores were fringed with
-houses, and hanging gardens; gradually deep-
into a sterner character as they receded from
sphorus, and lifting to the sky the palace-
rrack, and the elegant Persian kiosque of the
. The present sovereign has a superstition
l from an astrologer whom he consulted in his
that, while he is constructing Imperial resi-
, he is sure to be fortunate in his other under-
s; and hence he is continually adding to the
countless numbers of palaces and kiosques, that
the loveliest spots throughout the vicinity of the
l.

most extensive and ancient of these is that
is situated at the entrance of the harbour, and
ts name to the "Seraglio Point," the walls of
nperial Seraï running, as I have already men-
, far along the coast. On the opposite shore is
nall but elegant palace of Scutari, with its
y terraces, which are overlooked by the Sultan's
pal residence of Dolma Batchè; and you may
an arrow from the many-coloured and irregu-
onstructed palace of Dolma Batchè to the vast
now building on the same border of the Bos-
, with infinitely less taste and more architectural
ion; although, with true Eastern inconsistency,
o'e of the stupendous palace above Beshiktash,
e foundation, is of wood, surrounded by a colon-
upported on stately columns *of white* marble.

This palace, of which the expense is estima
million sterling, has been already a consider
in progress; and is erected on a locality wl
partly occupied by a beautiful kiosque of Sulta
and partly by a Tekiè and Chapel of Turni
vishes.

These latter, with a tenacity altogether inco
with our European ideas of a despotic gov
resolutely refused to quit their convent, when
of the new palace which rendered their ejecti
pensable was explained to them. They had e
resolution not to move; their mausoleum c
the holy ashes of a saint; and, in short, th
determined to measure their strength with the
Accordingly, raising the cry of sacrilege, they c
snugly within their convent walls, which w
overtopped by the Imperial pile that rose grad
either side of them.

But Sultan Mahmoud was born a century t
be thus baffled: the work went on; and he
opposition to his will with the most exemplary
so long as it did not retard the operations of h
tects. But when the moment at length arriv
rendered expedient the removal of the frate
claimed from the Chèïk Islam, or High Priest
mission to expel them; and, having failed in p
it, quietly mounted his horse, and rode up to th
gate. The Chief Dervish met him on the th
and the dialogue was brief:—

l mandate; and the Sultan adroitly availed
e fact to impress upon them the eligibility
tion; pointing out, with a solemnity wor-
casion, that it was more decent for them
ticated on the very spot consecrated by the
the illustrious deceased, than at the dis-
rlong, as had hitherto been the case. The
was a happy one, and the remark unan-
hile the fraternity were fain to affect ac-
th the sentiment, however inconvenient its

ely opposite, seated upon the Asian shore,
beauty contemplating her gorgeousness in
irror of the Bosphorus, rises the summer
egllerbèy, with its walls of pale gold and
the prettiest and most fanciful of all the
sidences, and rendered doubly agreeable by
gardens and overhanging groves.
iosques! Who shall number the kiosques?
atticed, many-formed, and graceful toys,
as though they had been rained from the

they look like gigantic flowers scattered
scape.

But back, my truant fancy, to the Se
and the shores of Scutari; where the
bounding over the heaving waters, and
pus, with its crown of snow, is summ
memories of the days when, if gods in
men lent them life! Back to the hon
zantium; to the lingering relics of the an
to the City of the True Believers!

We passed the little bay of Cum-c
port, and our caïque shortly afterward
creek of Yani-capu; but we had not lef
minutes when we became suspicious t
was not altogether so familiar with the
the Palace of the Pasha as he had profe
were our suspicions erroneous; for, afte
one street and down another; along
Aqueduct of Justinian; and amid the
mains of the last great fire, he fairly co
had lost his way.

In this dilemma, we took a guide,
that he was as familiar with the palac
Pasha as with his own house, and so he
though the trifling inconvenience whi
vinced us that we were as far from ou
After threading a vast number of narro
more filthy than the last, we at lengt
which, built on a steep acclivity, boas
more comfortable and cleanly appearan
were larger and better kept, and the sho
and more respectable. Our guide stopp
of great gates about half-way up the hi
the knocker, gave very audible evide
for admittance; after which he pocket
and withdrew.

On the opening of the gate, we foun

all covered court, choked with rubbish. A house, erally "tottering to its fall," and propped on the rden side with heavy pieces of timber, presented elf as the palace of the Pasha; and the door of the rem, which one rude blow would have shivered to oms, was immediately before us.

We looked at each other in wonder; but, as the rvant who had given us admittance assured us that e had made no mistake, which we were not only in- lined, but really anxious, to believe that we had done, e desired to be conducted to the Buyuk Hanoum. loud blow on the door of the harem, most porten- ously echoed by the void beyond, was instantly an- wered by the appearance of a tall, bony, grinning egress; who, having bade us welcome, invited us to ollow her to her mistress.

The stairs by which we ascended to the harem creaked nd quivered beneath our weight; the window that ighted them was uncurtained, and its missing panes ere replaced by rags and paper; there was no mat- ing upon the floor of the empty, chilly, comfortless all into which the apartments opened; and the whole ppearance of the place was so desolate and wretched, hat I shivered as I remembered that I had engaged myself to pass the night there.

Having traversed the hall, the slave lifted the heavy urtain veiling the door of one of the inner apart- ents; and, having obeyed her bidding, we found our- lves in a small, snug, well-heated room, closely car- eted and curtained; and at the instant of our en- ance a beautiful girl rose from the sofa where she had en seated, and welcomed us with a smile and a blush hich made us forget at once "the ruin of her house." here was one circumstance connected with the greet- g, however, that struck us as very singular; she made allusion to our having *been expected*: but there as, on the *contrary, a sort of wonder* and curiosity in

her manner, which, with intuitive good-
did not express.

We were both still haunted by the i
must be some mistake; and this in
heightened by the timid and constrain
the young beauty, who, after having
hands, and desired the two or three sla
obeyed the summons to prepare sweetm
suddenly sank into silence, as though w
the purport of our visit. My companio
the presumption that some mistake *must*
she was unable to comprehend its natu
inquired if she were correct in supposin
in the palace of the Scodra Pasha.

Again she was answered affirmatively.

"And you are then the beautiful d
Pasha, of whom I have heard so much?

"I am the wife of his son," was the
concise as it was, brought a brighter blu
of the speaker.

And she *was* beautiful, according to t
Turkish loveliness; with rich red lips, la
eyes, and a throat as white and dazzlin
leaf of the water-lily.

"You are young to be a wife: have
married?"

"Exactly twelve months; I am thir
band is a year older."

"Did you expect us earlier?"

did not know that he was unwell; we have not from him lately."

eard from him?" echoed Madame —— in her "my husband had a long conversation with him day."

in the beauty dilated her large eyes in wonder. ssible! He is in Albania." Here was the so- of the enigma. We were bound on a visit to ohn Pasha, the rebel, and we were under the Omer Pasha, his present successor!

a hearty laugh on all sides, we were quite at e; the young beauty handed scented conserves ee to us with her own pretty, plump, henna- fingers; and informed us that her mother-in- Buyuk Hanoum, and herself, were occupying lent to them by a friend, for the few weeks ey found it expedient to pass in Constanti- hile making their arrangements for Albania, y were shortly to join the Pasha.

assing half an hour in chatting on various we rose to take our leave, and to profit by the r of our new acquaintance to send a servant nt to us the palace of Mustapha Pasha. As aking our parting compliments, a slave came est that we would pay a visit to the Buyuk in her apartment, whither she had just re- m the bath.

nediately assented, and were conducted to room at the other extremity of the hall, found the lady seated under the tandour, t in darkness; the windows of the room he old Turkish principle, that is, perforated le tier; the lower ones so closely latticed admitted scarcely any light, and barely per- se within to see into the street; and the s, small and half *circular, dull with* dust, *lose to the ceiling, and, in several instances,*

where time or accident had displaced roughly with thin planks nailed a sphere of the apartment was close a fume having been flung into the ma which was rising in a dense vapou and crevice in the room (and they w stopped with pink paper.

The Buyuk Hanoum received us tesy, and apologized for not havin self on our first arrival in her own to her having been at the moment she appeared much amused at the her slaves had already informed her us under her roof. She had fo woman, but was no longer youn quently lost all the charming *fr* French word, for it is perfectly un is the great beauty of Oriental fema of conversation, we discovered tha one of the wives of Achmet Pash been to pay a visit to the harem of the previous day.

As our engagement still remain we did not long linger in the apartm Hanoum; but, taking leave of her little daughter-in-law, who had, d mained standing at the end of t hands folded meekly before her, w sofa of the hostess: we placed o guidance of a bearded and turb was awaiting us in the court-yar sallied forth.

What a walk we had! Up and out, until I began to think that t enchantment which I had read in *now* realized for my individual inc *the palace* was receding as rapidly

however, suffered to persist in this idle fancy,
eally *did* arrive at last, although some hours
n we should have done, before the great gates
tensive edifice, which I am bound to admit
ernally, more the appearance of a barrack than
. Half a dozen servants, several of them
were lounging in listless idleness at the en-
which our arrival instantly changed into ready
ious bustle.
ere ushered across an extensive court-yard to
he wings of the palace, a vast, irregular, pile
ing; and a single stroke upon the door of the
vas immediately answered from within: a group
ng female slaves received us in an inner court,
stood the araba of the Buyuk Hanoum, and
handsome marble fountain, at which a pretty
about eighteen was performing her ablutions.
e of the negroes accompanied us up stairs, and,
us across a very handsome saloon, whose re-
ere filled with cushions, and whose open gal-
nmanded the court beneath, showed us into
r apartment, and seated us on a sofa, whereon
andolin and a tambourine, probably flung there
fair musicians whom our approach had startled
eir pastime.
we were shortly joined by a very old woman,
me to pay her compliments to us; and who,
r manner, was evidently a confidential person
harem. She had been extremely beautiful, and
l a fine ruin; the outline of her features being
and regular; while her hair, of a bright chest-
our, unmixed with a taint of gray, gave her
ss of expression perfectly singular. This latter
tance only served to convince me of the great
ity of the dyes in use among the Turkish
to those common *in Europe; a fact* which I
ead*y occasion to notice: whatever* may be the

which, when we entered, was half filled w
ants, some standing in a semi-circle round
and others squatted on the carpet at the
the room.

As this was the first harem which I
where the establishment was on the true T
ing; or, to speak more plainly, where ther
candidates than one for the affections of
of the house, although there was, in po
actually but one wife; I paid particular
those delicate shades of etiquette, and g
ceremony, which, I had been prepared
these "princely families."

The Buyuk Hanoum occupied the uppe
sofa, against which the tandour was place
a plain woman, with a cold and somewha
pression of countenance: and there was mo
ness in the bend and the smile wherewi
comed us, than I had yet seen exhibited b
female; when we entered, she was amusin
is common with both sexes in this count
Turks as Armenians), in passing rapidly

n of the cord, by a carved acorn, like description. They are com- od, which, becoming heated by , emits a delicious perfume; but s upon the taste and means of the sses carrying chaplets of berries, other cheap substitutes, for this gence.

ent the circumstances of a Turk, less use he is called upon to make constantly are they employed in et; his fingers are busy with it as treet; you hear the light click, st-falling beads, as he is squatted fond is he of this dull enjoyment, od after my arrival at Constan- issued by the Sultan, forbidding in the mosques, the noise of so her, and all at work at the same ufti.

inety-nine beads, without includ- ects the ends of the cord. With attribute of God is recited thus: llent, Omnipotent, &c., &c. The the ejaculatory prayer, and bears himself.

Buyuk Hanoum was of fine pearls, and each the size of a pea, the ed by emeralds similarly shaped hole string secured by one pear- ze of a hazel-nut.

sofa sat the favourite Odalique t, slight, unattractive woman of age; with common, and rather ith a shrewd and keen expression em *interesting*. Close beside her *dy, who, although* certainly not

Hanoum, for her fair daughter, but the lovely had not yet left the bath.

At the invitation of the Buyuk Hanoum, w ourselves beside her, and partook of sweetn coffee, amid the polite greetings of the who and the refreshments had scarcely disappear the fair bather entered the apartment.

How shall I describe the beautiful Heyn noum? How paint the soft, sweet, sleepy lov the Pasha's daughter? She was just sixtee age when Oriental beauty is at its height, and gracefulness unsurpassed by any gracefulness Her slight, willow-like figure, her dark deep and lustrous, with lashes edging like silk their snowy and vein-traced lids, her luxur black as the wing of the raven, her white and teeth, and the sweet but firm expression of h fully formed mouth——

I had seen many lovely women in Turkey, one so purely, so perfectly lovely, as Heyminè and I am not quite sure that I did not admir more for the deep shade of melancholy wh

his master, and to defy his power—he had
ut the haughty effort had been made; and the
yminè looked back with sadness and regret to
s of past splendour and warrior strife amid
he had grown to womanhood. She clung to her
with the loving gentleness that spoke in her
s: but she worshipped her father, as something
an mortal; and her fair cheek flushed crimson,
proud lip dilated into smiles, as she spoke of
And how she had garnered up within her heart
veet, sad, memories which mock the brightness
present! How she dwelt upon the country she
ed and lost, and amid whose mountains she had
d the breath of freedom! I never saw the en-
n of the spirit more legibly written upon the
f any human being than on hers. It redeemed
thy of a score of Eastern women.

Buyuk Hanoum was as far from being reconciled
change of country and position as her daughter;
sadness was more subdued by resignation; she
ched the age when reverses are less keenly left;
sorrow sat upon her brow, and breathed in her
emulous, tone; but the blood which leaped to
w of the daughter in warmer gushes as she spoke
past, only curdled more chillingly about the
f the mother when the same visions arose in vain
y before her, to remind her of what had once
nd could never be again!

ra Pasha had earned for himself a place on the
history, but he had paid a high and a painful
r the privilege. He had tasted for a brief space
xicating draught of power, but the bowl had
ashed from his lips. He had defied the yoke
which he had been ultimately bowed; and the
at has been resisted is ever that which eats deep-
the soul.

ust be *a severe trial to sink from* a leader to a

vassal; even when it is from a rebel chief to the de
pendent Pasha of a Sultan. Mustapha Pasha had bee
almost a sovereign in Albania, a brave soldier, and
powerful prince; and, when he accepted the condition
of his Imperial Master, and bought his life at the pric
of his country and his fortune, the struggle of the spir
must have been a bitter one.

It was a singular circumstance that, at the period o
my first visit to his harem, he was occupying a palac
adjoining that in which resided another attainte
noble, the ex-Pasha of Bagdad! Both men of in
formation; both blighted in their ambition, and bowe
beneath the power they had defied; they amused th
ennui of their monotonous existence with writing poetry
and moralizing on the instability of human greatnes
I have remarked elsewhere that the Turks are seldo
found wanting in philosophy.

As we did not reach the Pasha's palace for seve
hours after we were expected, it was supposed that so
accidental circumstance had prevented our visit, and
family had consequently dined before we arrived;
such an occurrence as this never causes the slig
inconvenience in a Turkish house, where the cul
arrangements are so regulated that you can com
an excellent repast at whatever moment you may c
to require it.

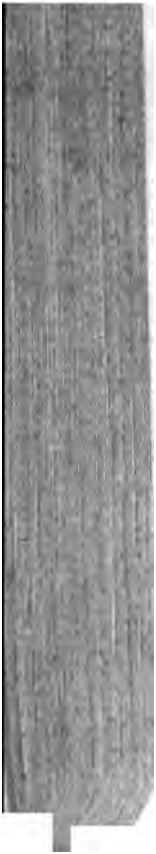
On the present occasion I rather regretted th
profuse and even sumptuous dinner which was
up to us, was, from an excess of courtesy on t
of our entertainers, perfectly European in its a
ment, being accompanied by silver forks, knif
chairs; but the luxury of the East had, neve
its part in the banquet, for the cloth which co
table was enriched with a deep border of
needlework, and the napkins of muslin almo
palpable as a cobweb, were richly embroidere
Wine was handed to us on a beautifully cha

glasses from which we drank it were
rystal; while the table stood upon a

beautiful objects employed during the
silver basin, strainer, and vase, which
o black slaves for us to wash our hands,
od a pace behind them, bearing upon
n, wrought with a border of flowers in
whereon they were to be dried. The
te that from which Ganymede might
ine for Imperial Jove, was chased in
e manner with grapes and vine leaves;
esign enriched the border of the capa-

had dined, we adjourned to the private
eyminè Hanoum, at her especial invi-
e young beauty, freed from the restraint
presence, clapped her hands, and or-
which she smoked with as much grace
ıy Moslem of the Empire. They who
plication of the word *grace*, have cer-
n a young Turkish woman manage her
ıthing can be more coquettish!
on fans, so celebrated in the "Spec-
e out-written a hundred-fold by one
escribe the manœuvres of an Eastern
r amber-lipped and gold-twisted pipe.
tudied attitudes; such long and slowly-
ns, having all the sentiment of a sigh
ness; such clasping and unclasping of
gers about the slender tube—no novice
to smoke beside a Turkish woman, who
ı look as awkward as a poor mortal can

omfortably nestled among our cushions;
ll *round table at the* extremity of the
a tray, bearing four wax-lights. This



custom of clustering all the candles to
in both Turkish, Armenian, and Gree
peculiarly congenial to the indolence
as it leaves such deep shadows in t
those who have no immediate occu
them to the vicinity of the glare m
turbed twilight on their sofas.

At intervals, a slave entered to tri
to replenish the pipe of Heyminè H
lingered awhile, unchidden, to listen
the conversation, or to indulge in a
Frank strangers; among the rest, o
looking woman, who complained of
suffering, and to whom the Pasha
even more kindly and gently tha
others, squatted down near the doo
considerable time, with her head droo
apparently amused, in spite of her in

The slaves, both black and white, w
I should think that we had at least
ance on us during dinner.

Despite the occasional interruptio
described, our conversation became gr
interesting. The young beauty talke
the proud and happy life that she ha
her father's prosperity; and then of
she had endured in exchanging its
chilling observances and restraints o
pital. Had the heart of Heyminè H
breast of her father, let the result h
might, he never would have recanted

From the political position of he
gressed to its social condition; and
amused by the perfect *sang froid* w
tered into a detail of the domestic ar
household.

"*You* have seen my brother," s

ell you that he is delicate and sickly. He
other's last child, and the Pasha feared that
be left without a son. In this dilemma, he
to the Buynk Hanoum his desire to contract
marriage; but this she would by no means
She could not, however, avoid seeing that his
s but too well founded: and she accordingly
a compromise, to which he at once agreed.
oss of time, he wrote to a friend at Constan-
purchase for him four young Circassians, and
them, under the charge of an elderly wo-
lbania.

as I was, I shall not attempt to describe
mortification on their arrival. I saw the
ıy mother, which, when alone with me, she
:empt to suppress; we had hitherto had but
ınd one interest in the harem of my father,
come suddenly domesticated with strangers
of another land and another language; to
were knit by no ties, bound by no sympa-

ll this is idle. You saw the Odalique who
t to my mother? Allah has been gracious
he has borne two sons to the Pasha. She
arge dark eyes, who, when you entered, was
er infant, has no other child than that one

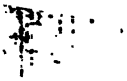
A third you will shortly see, when she
her visit previously to retiring for the night:
r much; but she, poor thing? is childless.
a died in consequence of her sufferings during
ge to Albania, which was tempestuous and
l. The aged woman who received you on
al, was the person who accompanied the four
s from Constantinople, and—but here is Di-
noum."

spoke, the *curtain that shaded the* door was
ide, and the Odalique entered. She was by

plenish the pipe that rested beside the you
and to hand it to her; a mark of attention s
which was acknowledged by its object with t
salutation common in the East: the press
fingers of the right hand to the lips and bro

The conversation was, of course, chang
entrance; and the subject of jewels having
tioned, Heyminè Hanoum despatched a sl
handkerchief with which she was in the hab
ing up her hair, in order to show us one of
nian fashions. It was of black muslin, pa
groups of coloured flowers, and bordered
with a deep fringe of fine pearls. I never
saw any mixture which produced a mo
effect; and when she wound it about her
dark glossy tresses of her hair, relieved by
tints of the flowers, and the whiteness of her
rivalling the pearls that rested on it; he
jacket, lined with sable, falling back, and
the transparent chemisette of gauze, and the
which it shaded; the pale blue silk trousers
with silver, and the small white naked foot t

reely delivered when the Boyuk
asha had desired to introduce us,
t, evidently somewhat surprised
to be bestowed upon two female
a great deal of the Scodra Pasha,
ed to see him; nor perhaps may
rt to my readers a portion of his



was residing on his Paslalik in
an Mahmoud reformed the national
ntry, and replaced the lofty turbans
nts of past centuries, with the scarlet
t of the present day. When the
nge reached the Pasha, he at once
to the troops, who resisted it with
threaten not only the liberty, but
hief, if he persisted in its enforce-
d he argue, explain, and persuade;
led to their ancient usages, refused
reasonings; their opposition being
ed by a conscription, enforced
arguments against
ths

tunes of the rebel Pasha; a brave man, b troops, and sincere in the same cause,—gr moreover, by the mountainous and diffic of the country,—naturally possesses the me head against a superior power to his own was with the Scodra Pasha. Many abor were made to dislodge and capture him, under the command of Rechid Meheme in vain. He still held on his way, until Sultan, irritated at the ill success of hi despatched Achmet Pasha with full powe pacificator, to use all possible means to re chief to his allegiance, and an order not t out having terminated the rebellion.

Thus instructed, the Imperial Envoy le for Albania; and his attempts were not d equally fruitless with those of his prede rebel Pasha's army had fought for their li their privileges; they had gone too far to Achmet Pasha felt at once the utter futil ing in a system of violence which coul definite result. The character of his a

offered to place himself in the power of the rebel
by meeting him alone and unattended where
might appoint.

Mustapha, a man of amiable disposition and
feelings, was touched by this mark of confider
unhesitatingly acceded to the request; when
without further delay, fulfilled the conditions
had imposed upon himself, mounted his ho
rode boldly off to the palace of the rebel. He
ceived with the utmost courtesy; coffee and p
introduced, and the two Pashas sat down sid
upon their cushions, to discuss the importa
of their meeting.

To a man of the Scodra Pasha's good
sound judgment, it was by no means diffi
visitor to demonstrate in the clearest manne
lessness of his situation. It was true that
had baffled all the attempts of the Imperia
the wisdom of his measures, the judiciou
arrangements, the bravery of his own bra
zeal of his soldiery. But this state of thin
last for ever; he was feeding upon his
and his resources must ultimately fail; h
to make a creditable and a free submi
still an opportunity to save his head;
yielded from weakness (and, should he
rebellion, the bitter hour of helplessne
how could he look for a mercy which
when it was freely extended to him?

Thus pressed both by exterior argum
conviction, wearied also, it may be, o
sovereign whom he reverenced, the
time for deliberate consideration ere
finite answer to the proposition; he s
an assurance should be solemnly give
and those of his family *should be spar*
Pasha *did not hesitate to promise*

was accordingly determined that the latter s
main two days in the palace of the rebel chief
should either depart, alone and unmolested
with him the continued defiance of the revo
vince, or that he should return to Cons
accompanied by his host, and the females of h
under the safeguard of his plighted word.

The latter alternative was adopted; and
Pasha ultimately returned to Constantinopl
pany with the Scodra Pasha and his hare
fortune of the rebel chief was confiscated, a
dred and twenty thousand piastres a year, we
upon him to supply the means of existence.
time elapsed ere he was admitted to the pres
allowed the high honour of kissing the foot, o
lime Highness.

On the same occasion he presented his t
sons, with whom the Sultan was so much pl
he created them Pashas on the instant; an
entered into conversation with them, he inqu
they liked the *fez;* upon which the young
two, a fine boy of eight years of age, answere
promptitude worthy of an accomplished cou
he had always liked it, but since he had seen
head of the Sultan, he should like it a thous
better; a reply which so delighted Mahmou
immediately presented him with a watch mag
enriched with diamonds. Nor was the chil
tunate throughout the audience, for the smil
reign tried him with another question, to
answered with even more point—"And whi
like the best, my young Pasha," asked th
"Constantinople or Albania?"

"Constantinople," replied the boy, "becau
here; the leaves cannot come upon the tree
the sun; and we cannot grow up to be brave
are not near you."

No wonder that Mustapha Pasha looks upon the mother of the boy as "the Light of the Harem."

The Buyuk Hanoum led us across the outer saloon to a spacious staircase, then across an upper hall, through a short gallery, and finally to the door of the Pasha's apartment. As I crossed the threshold, I was actually dazzled with light: the room was large; and was raised one step at the upper end, round which ran the sofa. Two tables, bearing trays of candles, were placed near the entrance; and a silver branch holding others was in the arched recess between them. The curtains and the covering of the sofa were of crimson satin, the latter fringed with gold a foot in depth, and furnished with cushions of gold tissue embroidered with coloured silk. At the extremity of the dais a pile of cushions were heaped upon the floor; and at the upper end of the sofa squatted the Pasha, with a negro slave on each side of him, busied in arranging his pipe, which had been just replenished. A capacious mangal, heavy with perfume, occupied the centre of the floor.

Mustapha Pasha is still in the prime of life; of the middle size, with an agreeable and sensible expression of face, but with a slight cast in one of his eyes. He received us very courteously, and ordered chairs for my friend and myself near his own seat, while he motioned the Buyuk Hanoum to be seated also; an intimation which she obeyed by placing herself on the extreme edge of the sofa. The next ceremony was to cause pipes to be presented to my companion and myself; the greatest honour that can be conferred on a female in Turkey being an invitation to smoke in the presence of the other sex.

This was indeed a dilemma, for smoking had formed no part of my education; and I knew that, did I even raise the pipe to my lips, I should infallibly be ill; but the Pasha fortunately remarked the slight shudder and the gesture of repugnance with which I took it

chibouque, sent a second message to the hare
was answered by the speedy appearance of
Hanoum and the favourite Odalique. A moti
hand invited both to take their places upon
ions already alluded to; and then I remu
ascendency of the latter over the spirit of the
an ascendency due probably as much to her
mother of his two sons, as to her natural sl
of intellect. Be that as it may, however, it
to perceive that she was a woman of grea
talent, and wonderful quickness of perception:
likely to retain the supremacy which she had

The Pasha understood a little French, bu
attempt to speak it; though it is probabl
will soon do so, as he is studying the langu
unwearying perseverance. He has already
very respectable library, where he has collec
ther the works of Voltaire, Racine, Boileau
and many other standard authors; and he hu
thus prematurely, he says, in order that the
the volumes may stimulate him to industr
never looks towards them without reflecti

ount of the toll to be paid by passengers—the in which the money had been obtained for its action—in what manner it would be lighted; in he entered into every particular connected with dertaking so earnestly, that I had reason to con- ate myself on being able to satisfy his curiosity. next asked a number of questions relatively to re Insurance Companies of London, of which he card vaguely; and, when I had explained to e whole of the system, he expressed his regret o institution of the kind had been established in ntinople; a want to which he was the more le as he had lately lost a house filled with valu- rniture and effects, of which he had been unable the smallest portion. He inquired if I thought ne of our companies would consent to accept urance for his palace; as, in the event of their willing to do so, he would immediately take to make the arrangement. I explained to him ficulty of inducing them to run so great a risk, as they must be, of the frequency of fires in oul, and the exorbitant interest they would re- n the event of their consenting to his wish: when once allowed the objection to be perfectly rea- e, although he much regretted the necessity of ning the idea.

he course of conversation, some allusion having ade to the philosophy with which he supported erses, his reply was so characteristic that it de- record: "The chariot of my fortunes," he said, for so long a time run smoothly over the high- f life, that I ought rather to feel surprise at its ace during so many years, than wonder that its should fail at last."

omment on such an answer would be idle.

as not without regret that *I took* leave of the whose *courteous manners and intelligent* con-

as we re-entered the harem, I could not r
expressing to the fair Heyminè my admir
intelligence and information of her fathe
praise of the Pasha to his daughter was "
perfume o'er the violet;" human commend
not exalt him higher in her esteem.

If splendour could insure repose, we were
a long night of slumber beneath the roof o
Pasha, for our beds were one blaze of gol
broidery; and it is certain that the fair
hovered about me until I sank upon my pi
most pleasant influence over my dream
passed a more delicious night. I had visio
of which the lovely Heyminè was the typ
ject; and, if some faint impressions of str
fering mingled in the illusion, a bright smil
glance dispelled the gloom, and brought ba
and the loveliness which had been veiled for
with tenfold lustre.

In the morning we returned to Pera, ca
us a store of pleasant memories, for which
debted to this amiable family; and it was

CHAPTER XIV.

n of Betrothal—Preliminary Ceremonies—The Mantle of net—The Palace of the Seraskier Pasha—The Palace —Picturesque Groups—An Interior—Turkish Children— al Curiosity—Costume of the Turkish Children—Military —The Procession—Hurried Departure of the Crowd—The er's Tower—The Fire Guard—Candidates for the Impe- ide—Imperial Expedient—Said Pasha—Policy of the er—An Audience—The Biter Bitten—Ingenious Ruse— e Economy—Brilliant Traffic—The Danger of Delay— rriage Gifts—An Interesting Interview.

days after my visit to the harem of Scodra my father and myself started at nine o'clock in ning to Constantinople, to be present at the on consequent on the betrothal of the Princess ah, the Sultan's second daughter; a lovely girl een, about to be bestowed on Mohammed Said who had been summoned from his Pashalik, at danelles, to receive at the hand of his Imperial this most honouring of all gifts.

before describing the procession, it may not per- amiss to record some of the less public cere- of the betrothal, for which I am indebted to an ness.

lay fixed upon for its celebration was the 7th of and, at the hour which the court astrologer had l to be the most auspicious for the assembling r of the individuals necessary to its completion, id received their *notes of invitation* two days pre- from *the Kislar-Aghasi (chief of* the eunuchs),

they met in the private apartment of the Imperial Treasurer, near the chamber which contains the holy mantle of Mahomet, the same sacred locality which had witnessed the betrothal of the elder princess. Here the whole company entered at the moment which had also been previously pointed out by the astrologer as fortunate, and remained for some time in religious silence, in presence of the inestimable relic; after which each member of the distinguished circle seated himself upon the carpet that had been prepared for him.

The Grand Vizier, Mohammed Ronouf Pasha, took the upper place upon the sofa, having near him the Chèïk-Islam (or High Priest), Mekki Zadè Moustafa Assim Effendi, who officiated on the august occasion. On the right sat the chief of the Eunuchs of the Imperial Seraglio, who acted as the proxy of the princess; and whose witnesses were the Commissioner of the Imperial Treasury, and Osman Agha, one of the principal eunuchs. On the left was placed the adopted father and representative of Mohammed Saïd Pasha, the Seraskier having for his witnesses Halil Rifat Pasha, the Sultan's son-in-law, Akhmet Fevzi Pasha, Military Counsellor of the Palace, and Mohammed Saïd Pertew Effendi, Minister of the Interior, and Counsellor of State, with four others. Among the Chèïks and the men of letters who were admitted to this august assembly, to mingle their prayers with those of the Chèïk-Islam, were Elhadj Yousouf Effendi, Chief of the Chèïks, and preacher at the great mosque of St. Sophia; and Elhadj Abdoullah Effendi, first chaplain of the mosque of Eyoub, and preacher at the mosque of Sultan Achmet.

They were no sooner seated than the officers attached to the service of this chamber, which bears the name of Khirkaï Chériff, presented to each person perfumes and rose-water according to the eastern custom; and, when *they withdrew*, the doors were closed, and the ceremony

ced with a prayer by the Cheïk-Islam, for the
cessing on the union they were then assembled
ate; after which he put the customary ques-
the proxies of the two contracting parties.
n as the act of betrothal was terminated, the
re again thrown open, and the two Cheïks
ced a prayer suited to the occasion. At the
the prayer, the distinguished party quitted the
Chériff, and passed into a neighbouring apart-
here they partook of the refreshments provided
, and were waited upon by the keeper of the
rse, who presented to them the rich gifts with
is Sublime Highness was pleased to honour
They then left the palace.

on as they had departed, the Sultana-mother the Bach-Agha (eunuch and major-domo) the offering of the bride to the bridegroom, who iiting it at the palace of the Seraskier, and ending at the same time the arrangement of marriage present, which was to be conveyed at pomp to the Seraï. The procession was to m the palace of the Seraskier (the bridegroom's father) at half past ten o'clock, and we ac- y hired a window overlooking the line of whence we could see the train issue from the ourt, cross the extensive space in front of it, ally lose itself in a narrow street leading to the l residence.

splanade on which we looked down was crowded rsemen, footmen, and carriages. Groups of were squatted immediately in the rear of the who lined the space along which the proces- s to move; others occupied a raised platform by some speculative Moslem, whereon a place e secured for the modest remuneration of a (twopence halfpenny). Rows of arabas, like *scarlet poppies, were ranged behind* the pedes-

trians; while, further from the s
were scattered over the whole squ
turesque confusion. Here a train
the horses that they had brought
of Jews chattered and gesticulated
huddled themselves up in the
which concealed their head-dress
snowy turbans and dark robes of
formed a striking contrast to th
about the brows of a group of Ha
pelisses of crimson or maroon, li
fur. Here it was a party of soldi
Bulgarians, dressed in jackets of
wool turned inwards, round caps
and leather leggings. Then mo
menians, with their tall calpacs a
jostled, as they passed slowly alon
crushing and squeezing, as thoug
to carry their point, *coute qui cou*

On a little hillock near the wind
a couple of Turks had spread t
quietly smoking their chibouque
negro pipe-bearers; while here
umbrella of white cotton oversh
covered with sherbet and mohalib
clustered a throng of noisy Gree
black as the shawl that he wore a

Nor was the scene within the ro
than that without; the remainin
hired by four grave-looking elde
brought with them half a dozen
eight or ten years of age, who wer
at one corner of the sofa, with all
and deference for the lordly sex
sentiment of the harem.

* Grooms.

trance, however, aroused them into something
n; for while our dragoman explained who and
vere, whence we came, and whither we were
questions which are asked by the grave and
Moslem, as unceremoniously as by any one of
Atlantic brethren, and without the slightest
n his own part that he is guilty of an im-
—I made an easy acquaintance with the
ldren, by permitting them to handle the
my bonnet, to touch my shawl, and to run
plump fingers over my girdle. And when
e of the party, who occupied the upper end
a, whereon, moreover, his attendants had
arpet of crimson shag, fringed with gold, as
ignoble chintz were not worthy the honour
g him, had taken the chibouque from his
, and sent it by his pipe-bearer to my father—
high consideration rather flattering than fas-
nd my father had, in his turn, despatched the
to spread before the children a feast of mo-
ted over with powdered sugar, we were all
iends in the world.

the little girls, a calm, self-centred, true
ild, with all the premature languishment and
so peculiar to the women of the country,
, sleepy eyes, and lips like rose-buds—was
jacket of purple velvet, lined with ermine,
with gold; her antery of pale pink muslin
l within the cachemire shawl that she wore
waist; and her large trousers of green
in ample plaits over the little naked feet,
hen she rose from the sofa, were scarcely
t the extremities by the yellow slippers that
her.

, perhaps a year younger, had her jacket of
nerino doubled with sable, and her little
fez worked with *seed-pearls;* her antery

was yellow, her trousers blue, a
pale amber-coloured gauze. N
outré than the costume of a little
long hair hanging in a score of
confined at the extremity with a
the tight sleeves open from the elb
hip, and edged with elaborately
the round, white, dimpled feet,
the full trousers; and the heavy
from the ivory shoulders and snow

There is no distinction of dress
two years old and the woman
jewels, the same fashion, the sam
the one and the other; they di
the diamonds, except upon great
on the children; and in fringe,
ribbon, they only yield to their
is not sufficient space upon their li
their parents to equalize the
them.

At length, the distant sounds of
to us from the Palace court, and
tan's band, playing his Grand
ceeded by a regiment of the lin
files: then rode forward about a
including several generals of brig
the Imperial Guard, surrounded
these were succeeded by two open
empty; and after these came the
groom to the Imperial family. Fi
men of the Seraskier's establish
of whom bore upon their heads ca
with coloured gauze, ornamented
and filled with sweetmeats of th
tion, piled in porcelain dishes; the
ing in the light like jewels. Th
others charged with silk stuffs of

ranged on a [illegible] of the same [illegible] ver salvers covered with [illegible] and of gold and silver: and [illegible] with [illegible] the whole covered [illegible]

[illegible]

were all in motion; the crimson-covered a
to move from their station: the sherb
vaunted their merchandise, with voluble e
the passers-by; the Turks resigned their ch
their pipe-bearers, and rose from their car
were instantly rolled up, and carried away l
mestics; the Bulgarians inflated their ba
obstructed the path of the foot-passengers,
heavy and awkward dance, which must hav
delled upon that of the bear; and, ere I l
of contemplating the scene, nine-tenths of
which had so lately thronged the wide sp
me had passed away.

The sunshine was lying warm and bri
dome of Sultan Bajazet's mosque, with i
indented gothic; and its spiral minarets,
galleries of rich tracery-work; dominat
turn by the Tower of the Seraskier, whic
tall and white from an angle of the palace
the giant guardian of the locality; and wh
(to which we afterwards ascended) command
the most magnificent views that the world c

another, on the sunny Bosphorus, laden
laughing in the day-beam. Turn to the
Golden Horn, from whence the riches of
poured forth over the east, lies at your
—ere your eyes ache with gazing, and
h wonder, and repose your vision on the
rocks which enclose "The Valley of the
' the most fairy-like glen that ever was
' a belt of mountains. And when you
ad the three hundred and thirty steps of
er of the Seraskier, inscribe upon your
t record of an hour, during which, if you
y or imagination, a love of the beautiful,
ion of the sublime, you must have lived
e of feeling and of fancy; with the busy,
at your feet, the sweet, still valley be-
he wide sea, the unfathomable, the mys-
nding your vision.
ay is man amid such a scene as this!
omit to mention that the Seraskier's
by the Turks, Yanguen Kiosque, or Fire
vatch-house of the fire-guard. Six in-
constantly on the look-out during the
:, who relieve each other every hour;
ne night-watch, the guard constantly
nd in a pair of spring pattens, which,
wood, and soled with iron, keep up a
e that prevents his giving way to drowsi-
neglecting his duty.
seven equally eligible candidates for the
Princess Mihirmàh; and consequently
ven times seven: intrigues set on foot,
inally announced that the Sultan, her
solved on bestowing her in marriage on
e noble of his empire. The Sublime
n commotion—the *seven eligibles* all in
ry *palace and harem on the qui vive*—

the Princess had seen and admired him.

But Sultan Mahmoud, after a youth of a manhood of blood, had become too good to risk offending many by ennobling one; a sequently adopted an expedient which had never been contemplated by those about He caused the names of the seven candidat scribed on as many separate shreds of parch on the following Friday, when he visited t he cast them all in a mass beneath his pra where they remained during the service; at which he put up a prayer to Allah and the aid him in the hour of trial, by enabling hi draw the name of the individual whose alli prove the most beneficial, alike to his em his daughter. Whether the prayer was answered, I know not; but the Sublime fir over the parchment which was inscribed with of Said Pasha of the Dardanelles.

Said Pasha is a handsome man of three thirty, with an expression of benevolence bility strikingly in his favour. He com

avies, or Turning Dervishes; but, after the expi-
n of a year, he was recalled by the Sultan, and
ved a post in the army. Subsequently to this
d, his rise to the Pashalik was rapid, as is gene-
the case in the East; and, on the last page of his
nce which he has turned, the characters may indeed
id to have been traced in gold.
ter this hasty sketch of his history, it is scarcely
sary for me to add that Saïd Pasha left the Dar-
lles a poor man; nor to remind my readers that
led Lackland was no meet match for a Sultan's
hter. The evil cried aloud for remedy, and the
came as speedily as its necessity had arisen.
e Seraskier had adopted Halil Pasha as his son,
he occasion of his marriage with the Princess
ıè, two years ago; and had been to him a most
ificent father; in the present difficulty he again
ed forward, and the portionless Saïd Pasha beheld
elf at once a rich man.
on the Seraskier it then devolved, in his double
city of high minister and parent, to introduce the
nate bridegroom to his Imperial father-in-law;
the recollection of all that the wily old courtier
done for the object of his first adoption, produced
different feelings in the breasts of the two indi-
als more immediately interested in the financial
gements of the marriage.
I present to your Sublime Highness," said the
ıter, "the son-in-law whom Allah has destined to
igh honour of becoming the husband of your Im-
l daughter—Saïd Pasha, my adopted son—and
so with the greater delight that I know him to be
ave in the field as he is wise in the cabinet—as
in temper as he is courageous in spirit—learned,
e, submissive, and enthusiastic in his attachment
ur Sublime Highness (may *your end* be glorious!).
as *every virtue under heaven, and* but one defect."

"And what may that be?" inquired th
arching his dark eyebrows in astonishment.
be weighty indeed if it can counteract the e
bright a list of qualities."

"Alas! your Sublime Highness," replie
raskier; "Said Pasha is poor!"

The point was pathetic enough; and t
minister, who would gladly have secured the
being the adopted father of the Sultan's s
in-law, without paying quite so high a pri
he had done on the marriage of his first, flat
self that a recollection of the enormous outla
had made on that occasion would exonerate
a similar expense on the present. But the
doubtlessly learned that the diamond can b
with its own dust; and he acted upon that
as he blandly answered, if not in the word
in the feeling, of our immortal bard:—

"'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis, 'tis true;

"But, while he has the wealthy and muni
raskier of the Sublime Empire for his adop
he must remain unconscious of the fact."

The Minister did all that remained for hi
he tried to look flattered and gratified—h
turned thanks for the gracious words whi
him to understand all that was expected of
he left the Presence to withdraw, from his s
ducats to the amount of two millions of piast
were brought up by the Frank merchants at

But the best part of the jest was yet to c
the marriage of one of the Imperial family, e
of the empire is expected to present an offeri
tioned to his means; and, as these generally
jewels, the chamberlain acquaints each indi
learning the amount of his purposed present
most acceptable shape in which he can make

means prevents the chance of a too frequent repe-
of the same gift.

ien the Princess Sallihè became the wife of Halil
a, the amount of her diamonds thus obtained was
considerable; and, as she is a person of too
se and selfish a character to take pleasure in
ing herself to the people as the sisters of the
n are in the habit of doing; and, moreover, too
hty to seek to dazzle even in the harem, his
me Highness, who is an admirable tactician, be-
ght himself of a most brilliant plan for making a
money in a quiet way out of these anti-engaging
ties.

accordingly paid a visit to his daughter; and
she had enjoyed the high honour of kissing his
and he had graciously signified to her his Im-
l permission that she should seat herself upon the
ions piled on the floor near him; he condescend-
explained to her the utter uselessness of jewels
she never wore, and suggested the expediency of
isposing of them, and adding to her present income
nterest of the sum which they would produce.

ie Princess listened in respectful silence; and then
ured to doubt whether a purchaser could be found
he diamonds of a Sultan's daughter. This difficulty
however, instantly overcome, by an offer, on the
of his Sublime Highness, to become himself that
haser. And the consent of the Princess having
obtained, and the price to be paid decided on, the
cipal remained in the Imperial Treasury, whence
interest was to be drawn; and the jewels, thus, in
t of fact, obtained for a per centage on their value,
carried off in triumph by the court jewellers, to
eset for the younger Princess!

or was this all; for, when the Pashas declared the
unt of their offerings, *the money* was paid on the
ant, *and these very diamonds* given in exchange

fashioned into such forms as best s
convenience of their new owner.

Thus were things situated when t
withdrew from the Imperial presen
loved ducats from their snug resting
box, and to scatter them among t
Franks. Many of the Pashas had
ward with their gifts, and he had
for a shrewd stroke. It is the fash
Court for each noble to announce
present which he purposes to make
tion generally exceeds the actual v
by fifty or a thousand piastres. Th
ingly collected these declarations,
he addressed a courtly circular to th
too tardy!) Pashas, informing ther
Highness Mahmoud "the Powerful
World, and Brother of the Sun, h
his intended son-in-law, Mohamm
the brightness of his munificence,
diamonds upon him, and overstrew
cious stones; and, such being the
kier, acting as his adopted father
suggested to him the expediency o
Pashas who had not yet honoured h
to make them in the current coin o
than in diamonds, which could not
stances, avail him any thing.

The suggestion, was a command;
held the list of names and offering
was under the necessity of coming
to the treasurer of the Seraskier the
which he had specified!

Nothing sharpens the wits of a Tu

The procession, from which I hav
through the street called Divan-Y
the mosque of St. Sophia, near t

arrived at Ortakapou, or The Middle Door, the
the officers alighted, and formed an avenue to
ance of the harem, whence the marriage-gifts
veyed into the Serai, where the Seraskier,
r the bridegroom, craved and obtained an in-
vith the Kislar-Agha, who was proxy for the
This hideous negro has the thickest lips, the
ose, the smallest eyes, and the most unwieldy
f all the eunuchs of the empire. Imagination
aint his ugliness! And before this revolting
e of humanity, the haughty minister, in whose
life and death, bent his stubborn knee in sup-
. Scarcely had he crossed the threshold of the
ent apartment in which the Kislar-Agha awaited
he prostrated himself to the earth as he be-
ie monstrous representative of youth and beauty
nercy upon the slave who kissed the dust before
t of the Creation, the Glory of the Moon,* the
of his thoughts; upon which the unwieldy negro
is face, cast down his eyes, and assumed the
but, after a vast deal of coquetting, the lover-
mence of the gray-headed Seraskier met with
d; a sable hand was extended towards him,
embraced with transport; the presents were
ndingly accepted; the sweetmeats by the Kis-
himself; and the more costly offerings by the
eunuchs of the palace, in the names of their
Mistresses, to whom they were immediately

hus terminated the first act of the sublime

* Mihirmàh, the glory of the moon.

CHAPTER XV.

Fine Scenery — The Coast of Asia — Turkish Cemeteries — Imperial Serai—The Golden Horn — Mount Olympus — Arabajhe—The Araba—The Persian Kiosque—The Bar Scutari—The Mosque of Selim III.—The Slipper of t tana Validè—The Imperial Guard—Military Material Macaroni Manufactory — Sublime Targets — A Major Imperial Guard—Triumph of Utilitarianism—The Ris Vines—The Holy Tomb—Encampments of the Plagu ten—The Setting Sun—Return to Europe — The Sq Topp-hannè.

I HAVE seldom seen a lovelier day than that on we first passed over to Scutari: the sunshine was upon the Bosphorus, the tops of the tall cypresse golden in the light, and their feathery branches l slightly beneath the breeze; the sky was blue the spiral minarets; the painted houses gleam like gigantic flowers as the day-beam touched and our arrowy caïque seemed to breathe as it lated upon the surface.

It was a glorious scene! And we were soon the bosom of the blue waters, darting along, w wild birds above our heads, out into the Pro Europe was beside and behind us; Europe, w palaces, its politics, and its power; and the sh shore of Asia, with its cypress-crowned height its dusky mountains, seemed to woo our app How I regretted that the passage was so brief: strokes of the oar, a few pulsations of the heart we had shot past the "Maiden's Tower," and w *landed beside* the ruined mosque, in the valley t

kiosque of the Sultan, which crowns the highest hill.

curved gracefully downward at this point ir green glen, where a group of plane-trees threw their long branches over the remains bling temple. Here and there a solitary up its dark head like a death-lance into rizon, contrasting its funereal and gloomy the laughing clusters of the pink-blossom- trees, which were scattering their petals re-stones that rose on the side of the grassy the wild flowers, as if to link the present t.

autiful custom, that of burying the dead y path of the living! It destroys so much which imagination is prone to drape about t creates so much more of a common inte- 'urk smokes his chibouque with his back nst a turban-crested grave-stone; the ds his meal upon a tomb; the Armenian self from the sunshine beneath the boughs idow the burial-places of his people; the groups, and talk of their homes and of nes among the ashes of their ancestors; dren gather the wild flowers which grow aves as gaily as though death had never

e soon darted into the little bay, and we re of Asia. Immediately in front of us, on n coast, stretched the long castellated wall it city of Constantine, with its Seven Tow- palace-girdled Point. Nothing could be ful! The numerous buildings of the Im- were overtopped by shadowy plane-trees, s, lofty cypresses, feathery acacias, and ficent forest *trees; from amid* whose foli- *ning domes and gilded spires* of the palace

sun had touched it, and was reflected back f
ness from its gilded doors and glittering la
looked like a cluster of kiosques gracefully
gether in the hour of sport.

Beyond that point lay the Golden Horn: t
the summit of the hill which shuts it in on th
shore, stretched the cypress-grove and houses
But ere long we turned away from these si
objects to glance upwards to the crest of Mou
pus, far, far away in the distance, forming
back-ground to the Sea of Marmora. We ca
happy moment, for the sunbeams had turned
to jewels, which were flashing with a bright
almost forbade our gaze; when suddenly a li
passed over its stately brow, and deadening i
stant the glitter that it had borrowed from
beam, sobered down its tints into more subdu
and made it look as though it were girdled by
As we reluctantly quitted this fair scene, an
towards the valley, we saw the araba that we
pointed to await us there, standing beneath
of the tall trees: and as the arabajhe obs

ted roof, and gilded pillars. The
of brown and gold, with
rough which the breeze
ndly as though it loved the
roses of the past season

hill, we passed beside the
e little edifice with
hite jalousies; and then
e found ourselves opposite
ich forms so fine a
ably no country in the
elegantly built as in
arance of palaces; and
iated to the Imperial
neighbourhood of the
ed with square towers, built
diminishing in size, and
Immediately opposite to the
e barrack stands the magnificent
II.; but Scutari, among the
se slender minarets are relieved by

that they induce a feeling of pity rather
On one occasion, when I paid a visit to the
sister, while waiting to be admitted, I
by looking attentively at the palace-guard, wh
collected outside the guard-house to see the
including the two sentinels on duty, they
ten individuals; and certainly eight of the
not more than fourteen years of age; nor do
that any of them had washed their faces, o
their garments, for a week previously.

A Pasha, while speaking with me one d
Turkish army, assured me that it was com
"excellent materials."—It may be so; I cann
I desire to confute his opinion; but it is cer
like other raw materials, it will require a
of working before it can be rendered service
that, at present, there are few things more
than to see a Turkish regiment at drill or
there is an independence of feeling and act
each individual which is quite *inexplicable*.

The surprise created by the appearance of

little hill, we entered the widest street
t seen in the East, partly overshadowed
trees which encircled an ancient mosque,
ed by the principal entrance to the gar-

ell mention here that the main portal of
barrack is decorated with a target, richly
erforated with one or more balls, shot by
hand of the Sultan, who is an excellent
nd who thus seeks to excite by his example
mulation among his soldiery.

drew up before a neat-looking white
a green balcony, and, ere we could
oor was opened to us: when one of the
f the party instantly recognised an ac-
o whom he hastened to present us; and
ade my bow to a major of the Imperial
a diamond decoration on his breast, his
l up to the shoulders, and his arms buried
in flour.

are utilitarians indeed!

piastres!

What a well-imagined antidote to the w
a garrison life! What a triumph for utilita

I shall say nothing of the forest-like c
have spoken of it elsewhere. The dark cyp
flinging their long shadows across the roac
hill which we slowly ascended on quitting
factory was called "The Rise of the Vines."
is appropriate; for the houses that fringe it
hand overlook a wide extent of orchard an
interspersed with kiosques, and groups o
acacias. The view was bounded by the se
tall mountains above Broussa; and flowers
soming by the wayside, and wild-birds w
among the boughs. No wonder that the na
Turks are attached to Scutari.

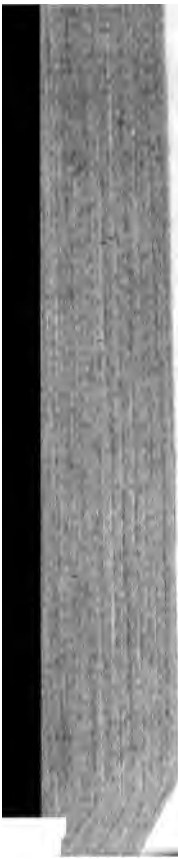
A small building to the left of the road at
attention, and I alighted to examine it. It
be the tomb of a saint; and I distinguished, t
closely-latticed casement, a wooden sarcop
mounted by a green turban, and surroun

ided the town, for the plague was there; that
nt but invisible enemy which stretches its
and over the East, and sweeps down its prey,
l by the groans of the bereaved, or the pangs
tten—the deadly plague, which spares neither
ge, nor condition, but makes one universal
mankind.

ever thrilled me more than when I once came
during my wanderings, upon an encampment
gue-smitten. The huts are generally erected
ide, and the tents pitched among them; and
e families of the infected basking in the sun-
in their proscribed limits, and gazing eagerly
ance passenger, whom his ignorance of their
nay conduct past their temporary dwellings;
en rolling half naked upon the grass; and the
d careworn parents hanging out the garments
ients on the trees of the neighbourhood. Such
sely the case with that into which I had un-
ly intruded; and whence I was very hastily
by the shouts of the guards, stationed to en-
quarantine of the mountain colony; and the
exclamations of my companions.

fficult to look upon such a scene, and upon
, and to believe in the existence of this frightful
It is the canker at the core of the forest-tree;
nt in the garden of Eden.

n was setting ere we prepared to traverse the
Horn, in order to reach the European side
ne firing of the evening gun; the shadows
g long upon the water: a yellow gleam was
n the domes and houses of Stamboul, and a
our lowered over the sky. The twilight of
is fleeting as a thought; and the outline of
re long loomed out from amid the gathering
, like a spectre of the past. *One line of* light
mered *across the waves like a thread of* gold,



linking the shores of Europe and
I pointed it out, it faded; softe
yellow, like the lip of a primros
stant it was gone; while, as it di
cannon pealed over the waters, a
day was spent.

Our rowers had calculated to
sound died away, the caïque touc
pier of Topp-hannè, and we were

There is not a locality through
capital more strictly or more rich
than the small square of Topp-h
stands the celebrated Kilidge Al
Fountain of the Mosque of Ali P
gade, who built the temple wh
Constantinople boasts no other fou
Its rich and elegant arabesques a
and, when the sun is shining on t
jewels. It has, however, suffere
reforming mania of the Sultan,
improvement, has replaced its v
jecting roof with a little terrac
keeping, alike with its architectu
and who was with difficulty persu
altogether.

On one side of the fountain is th
belongs, and on the other the ki
with its magnificent portal and
But to be seen to perfection, the
must be visited during the autum
of Asia are scattered over its whol
fumed melons, pyramids of yell
scarlet pomegranates; the golde
coloured lemon, the ruddy appl
all are poured forth before you.
less various or less glowing than
they sit doubled-up upon their m

the rainbow, with their chibouques between
s; rather waiting than looking for customers;
sky above them, and the blended languages of
nds swelling upon the wind.
I landed at Topp-hannè on my arrival in
I should have fancied myself a spectator of
ie scenes described by the tale-telling Scheher-

THE Turks are strangely superstitious; they
solutely to the absurd and wild fancies wl
been banished from Europe for centuries;
too with the blindness of faith, and a tenacit
pose, quite in keeping with their firm and
dogged natures.

Many of their superstitions they inherit
Romans; they extract augurics of good and
the entrails of fresh-slaughtered animals; t
inferences from the flight of birds; they h
cious and inauspicious hours, which are gra
mined by the Astrologers; and no Osmanli e
takes a journey, builds a house, marries
commences any business of importance, wit
fying himself on this important point. Sho
disappointment overtake him, despite the
he has used, he never blames either his own
agement or another's treachery; neither do
beneath the trial: he tells you that it is hi
his fate; and he calmly submits to what h

a fragment of his dress, and fastens the
on-work of a window belonging to the
int, in order to deposit the evil along with
is sick, he procures from the Priest an
l, inscribed throughout its interior with
the Koràn; and, filling it with water,
until the whole of the writing becomes
he swallows the liquid, and thus admi-
nself a dose of Holy Writ! The Court
ublishes every year a species of super-
nack, in which he specifies the lucky and
of the different moons; foretells wars,
marriages; and imparts a vast quantity
us information, which must be both valu-
ious, if it is to be estimated by the price
s the salary of the Seer is a most liberal

ngular superstition, common throughout
belief that should a dog chance to pass
persons who are conversing, one or the
l sick unless the animal be propitiated
nd the first care of a Musselmaun to whom
nas occurred is to look about him for the
cting its effect.

redominant weakness of the East is the
Evil Eye. Should you praise the beauty
child to its mother, without prefacing
ion with "*Mashallah!*" or, In the name
ch is considered sufficient to counteract
all malignant spirits; and should the
ill or meet with an accident, it is at once
you have smitten it with the Evil Eye.
when by accident they allude to their own
or good fortune, immediately spit upon
o avert the malign influence; and to such
ey carry *their faith in the efficacy* of this
reism, that, on a recent occasion, when

instances that he was compelled to affect ob
her wishes, ere she could be re-assured of th
her daughter.

The Turk decorates the roof of his house,
of his caïque, the cap of his child, the ne
horse, and the cage of his bird, with charr
the Evil Eye; one of the most powerful of tl
dotes being garlic: and it must be conceded
at least, the workers of woe have shown th
Every hovel has its head of garlic suspended b
and bouquets of flowers formed of spices, an
this noxious root is nestled, are sent as prese
mother of a new-born infant, as a safeguar
herself and her little one.

A blue eye is supereminently suspicious,
have an idea that such is the legitimate col
evil orb; and you seldom see a horse, or a d
or even a donkey, which has not about i
string of blue beads, to preserve it from the d
of witchcraft. I was considerably amuse
occasion, when, being about to meet the c
a friend, the horse that drew it, either fro

ternated the effect of a row of glass beads, and a
nt of bone!
protect the reigning Sultan from the power of the
Eye during his state progresses through the streets
e capital, a peculiar head-dress was invented for
imperial body-pages, whose ornamented plumes
of such large dimensions as, collectively, to form
en about his sacred person. Even Sultan Mah-
l, who is superior to many of the popular preju-
, has just caused a Firman to be published,
biting the women from looking earnestly at him
passes them, on pain of—what think you, reader?
subjecting their husbands or brothers to the bas-
o! The Turkish laws are too gallant to condemn
les to suffer this punishment in their own persons,
Mahmoud is consequently to be protected from the
bly fatal effects of the ladies' eyes by their fears
heir male relations.
nother singular custom is that of pouring water
e any one has fallen, to prevent a recurrence of
ccident on the same spot, which is religiously ob-
d by the lower orders; as well as flinging stones
e body of a decapitated criminal, in order to secure
lreams of the spectator from an intrusion of the
tly object.
o Turk of the lower ranks of society ever passes a
l of paper which may chance to lie upon his path;
lways gathers it up with the greatest care; as the
ılar belief leads him to place implicit faith in an
ent superstition that all paper thus obtained will be
cted after death, and scattered over the burning
through which he is to pass to paradise; and that
equently the more he is enabled to secure, the less
ring he will have to endure hereafter.
most extraordinary fact came to my knowledge a
t time before I left the *East, relatively* to the female
s of the *harem*. *They have a species* of society, or

Far from affecting any concealment of their
pation in the pretended powers of the society,
not, when a guest in the harem, please an initia
more surely than by inquiring if she be a Babal
the Turkish ladies frequently amuse themselves
visitors by exhibiting their black slaves while u
influence of their self-excited phrenzy. Whe
Pythoness is informed of the wish of her mist
collects such of her companions as are Baba
there are sometimes several in the same harer
brazier of burning charcoal is placed in the
the saloon in which the ceremony is to tal
Round this brazier the Arabs squat down, a
mence a low, wild chant, which they take up
vals from the lips of each other; and then bre
chorus, that ultimately dies away in a wail, s
by a long silence, during whose continuance t
their bodies backwards and forwards, and n
their eyes from the earth. From the moment
the chant commences, an attendant is consta
ployed in feeding the fire with aloes, incense, u
every species of intoxicating perfume.

renew the warfare that they had discontinued to indulge it, and finally roll on the floor with bloodshot eyeballs, and foaming at the mouth.

A second trance ultimately seizes them, from which they are left to recover alone; fresh perfumes being flung into the brazier to expedite their restoration, which generally takes place in ten or fifteen minutes; and then it is that the spell of prophecy is on them. They rise slowly and majestically from the floor; they wave their hands solemnly over the aromatic flame; they have become suddenly subdued and gentle; and, after having made the circuit of the brazier several times in silence, they gaze coldly round the circle, until, fixing upon some particular individual, they commence shadowing forth her fate, past, present, and to come; and I have heard it seriously asserted that they have thus divulged the most secret events of by-gone years, as well as prophesying those which subsequently took place.

It is scarcely wonderful, even disgusting as a great portion of the ceremonial undoubtedly is, that many of the Turkish ladies occasionally relieve the tedium of the harem by the exhibition of the Babaluk!—or that the vague yearning to pry into futurity so inherent in our nature, coupled with the uncertainty on whom the spell of the sybil may be cast, causes an excitement which forms an agreeable contrast from their customary *ennui*. No second fate is ever foretold at the same orgies. When the first Babaluk begins to speak, the others sink down into a sitting posture, occasionally enforcing her assertions by repeating the last words of any remarkable sentence in a long, low wail, and when she ceases and takes her place among them, they are for the third time overtaken by a trance: the brazier is then removed, the spectators leave the room, the door is carefully closed, *and the* Babaluks are left to awaken *at their leisure. When* they finally come

forth, they resume their customary avoc
making the slightest allusion to th
scene in which they have been acto
like the subject to be mentioned to th
days have elapsed.

CHAPTER XVII.

itation — Disagreeable Adventure—Executed Criacy of Wayside Executions—Tardy Conversions—umanity—Summary Mode of Execution—The Pahé Sultane—Entrance of the Harem—Costume of — Nuzip Hanoum—Ceremonious Reception—The ughter—Costume of the Ladies of the Seral—he Slaves—Extraordinary Arrangement—Rejected The Imperial Lover—Sacredness of Adoption in mantic Correspondence—Ladies of the Household her of the Slaves—Perousè Hanoum—Crowded The Imperial Odalique—Music of the Harem—The The Kislar-Agha—The "Light of the Harem"—d Sultan—Indisposition of the Sultana—The Pas—The Imperial Apartments—The Dancing Girl—Departure—Ballad by Perousè Hanoum.

ceived an invitation to visit Asmè Sultane, ter of the Sultan, at her summer palace, I Pera early one morning, accompanied by obey the Imperial summons.

her was beautiful; the great cemetery was h loungers, and the road leading to "The

was too late. As the carriage turned the
the road I had caught sight of the suspended
and I continued to gaze upon him, fascinat
horror of the spectacle. This was only the se
that I had looked upon death, and it was i
me in so revolting a shape that I felt as thou
blood were curdling about my heart!

We had come upon the victim in so insu
a manner, that the sleeve of my dress almo
his arm, as he hung from the projecting
house immediately beside our path. He w
powerful man, bare-headed, and clad in a w
and trousers, fastened about his waist with
shawl. But what made the exhibition ter
horrible, was the fact that the rope had slip
his dying struggles, and that his head wa
cibly backward. I shall never forget it; a
believe that I should have remained without
of turning away my eyes, had not my compani
me forcibly from my lethargy; when, yield
heart-sickness which crept over me, I
fainted, and thus escaped all further sufferin

ng, and in the midst of men busied in their daily
cations—to know that the narrow space in which
victim is suspended, surrounded by objects of
ter, has been let out on hire for this horrible pur-
e—that a bargain has been made between the
ernment and the shopkeeper for the use of the
rway leading into his dwelling—there is altogether
ething so revolting in the whole system, that I
not think of it without a shudder; and thus was
y avenue into Pera closed for three days against
e to whom such sights were painful; for the same
stly object presented itself at each village leading
n the city: while the body of the ringleader of the
d, decapitated, and deprived of its right hand, was
osed in one of the public squares.

One of the gang saved himself by becoming at one
the same time a True Believer and King's Evi-
ce; the only individual of the association who
uld consent to accept life on such terms. The re-
inder, kept in ignorance, according to the Turkish
tom, of the precise moment of their execution,
e allowed to frequent the taverns and coffee-houses
ompanied by a guard, during several hours, and to
ık and converse freely with those whom they hap-
ed to meet there; when suddenly their career of
mperance was checked; they were halted in front
he house which had been fixed upon for their re-
tion, the fatal noose affixed, a basket placed be-
th their feet to be subsequently drawn away, and
another instant they were launched into eternity,
le the accents of revelry were yet upon their lips!
the Turks do not admit the efficacy of a tardy and
or-wrung repentance, they consider this mode of
cution to be the most humane which they can adopt;
, as the criminal is flattered to the last with the
e of pardon, he thus escapes *much* of the pre-
ture suffer*ing attendant upon a violent* death.

In about an hour after we had escaped
frightful spectacle I have described, we arri
gate of the palace—an extensive and handso
on the border of the Bosphorus; where a
soldiers and a throng of servants were to be
ere we could reach the staircase leading to
room in which we waited, while our presence
nounced to the Princess. As Her Highness w
bath when we entered, we were detained a co
time in this apartment, surrounded by the
the household, and the principal negroes of th
a delay at which I rather rejoiced, as I had
gether recovered from the effects of my ma
venture.

At length we were requested to move for
attended by half a dozen individuals of the
suite, we traversed several apartments neatly
but quite destitute of furniture; until, at the
of a long gallery, lighted on either side b
spacious windows, commanding the channel o
hand, and the palace gardens on the other, we
the lofty doors of the harem, which were fl
at the first signal of our attendants, and as
closed again when we had crossed the threshol

A train of female slaves, dressed in the ri
furniture chintzes, received us as we entered,
us across a lordly hall lined with white mar
supported by numerous pillars of the same
through whose open doors we had a delici
of the extensive gardens, with their fantasti
beds, stately fountains, and gleaming terraces.
Hanoum, the adopted daughter of the Prin
us in the centre of the hall, and welcomed
gracefully; after which, taking a hand of e
conducted us to her own apartment, a charm
overlooking the water, and entered from a gall
surrounded the principal saloon. Having re

r veils, and seated us on the cushions beside her, clapped her hands, and about a score of slaves ed with coffee and sweetmeats.

e *coup d'œil* was beautiful, as the fair girls, not f whom could have been more than twenty years e, and who were all exceedingly lovely, prepared rve the refreshments. The Princess had given s that we should be received with all possible nony: and the display was consequently most tiful. One slave held a weighty vase, suspended three silver chains, in which stood the coffee; her bore a large gold salver, covered with cups holders of costly enamel, whence depended a daz- drapery of gold tissue wrought with pearls, and y fringed: a third carried a gilded tray bearing of cut crystal containing a variety of exquisite tmeats, lying beneath golden covers enriched with ; a fourth held the salver on which stood a range lass goblets of beautiful form and workmanship, l with water—all, in fine, were laden with some ct of cost and luxury; and their attitudes were so sful, their faces so lovely, and their costume so ing, that I regretted their departure, when, after ad partaken of the rose-scented jelly and perfumed ha, they slowly withdrew.

azip Hanoum, the favourite of Asmè Sultane, was hased by her Imperial Highness when she was a few months old, together with her mother, who while she was yet an infant. Her influence over mind of her illustrious protectress is unlimited, had she been really born "beneath the purple," could not have commanded greater liberty and ideration than she now enjoys. Her features are regular, and even handsome; but her beauty is oyed by the immense number of freckles that r her face and bosom. *Her eyes are a deep* rich blue, *long dark lashes, and her hair is* of a fine golden

cotton nowered with yellow; and an ante
green striped with white, and edged with a
pink floss silk; while her jacket, which was
duction of a Parisian dress-maker, was
coloured satin, thickly wadded, and furnish
deep cape, and a pair of immense sleeves, t
the wrists with diamond studs. But the mo
feature of the costume in the Imperial Pal
head-dress. Nothing can be imagined mor
A painted handkerchief is bound tightly
brow, and secured by jewelled bodkins: the
is *crèpé* until it becomes one huge disheve
when it is traversed across the top of the
corner of the handkerchief; a number of sle
of false hair hang down the back, frequentl
very materially from the colour of the natu
the front locks are cut square across the for
left a couple of inches longer at the sides, wh
quite flat, and are stuck full of roses or gems
hung by the deep fringe of the handkerchie
to resemble a wreath of flowers. Some few
ladies of the Imperial Seraïs fasten immens

ssion. But her hands and arms were lovely! round, and soft, as though they had been wax; and her slight elastic figure looked been modelled by the Graces.

ltane is celebrated throughout the capital ity of her slaves; and his Sublime Highness demanded Nazip Hanoum, but has been ed: an occurrence so unprecedented in hat he has finished by persuading himself ctually attached to the lively girl who has lay the part of a modern Roxalana, and to wer.

rejection was treated by the Sultan as the him of a spoiled beauty, and he even con- to expostulate with Nazip Hanoum; but had no more effect upon her than his pre- id, for the first time in his life, the "Bro- Sun" and "Emperor of the Earth" found hted by a mere girl.

was, however, without remedy, for, as the ughter of an Imperial Princess, the liberty ng Hanoum was sacred; and his Sublime as fain to content himself with the antici- uture success; but, when a second solicita- it with it only a second repulse, despite all gifts and lover-like courtesies of the pre- lve months, the enraged Sultan took up the nother tone, and accused the Princess of igated her favourite to this unheard of rebel- t his sacred will.

ana defended herself with all the energy of and even consented to further his suit by ls and persuasion, but no success followed s. Nazip Hanoum preferred the partial the harem of her protectress, and the com- ndependence of her present *position*, to the tivity of *the Imperial Seraglio*, and the fleet-

ing favour of its lord; and she consequently continued firm.

The Sultan, enraged beyond endurance at this unexpected perseverance, left the palace in displeasure and even refused to see his sister, whom he still persisted in believing to be the principal cause of his defeat. But monarchs are mere men where slighted feeling or wounded vanity make themselves felt; and Mahmoud, when he retreated to his gilded saloons at Beglierbey, shared the fate of his kind. He became convinced that he really loved Nazip Hanoum, and that her possession was necessary to his happiness; and, determined not to be thwarted a third time, he continued deaf to the earnest and humble prayers of the Princess that he would restore to her the light of his favour, and the glory of his presence; and actually refused during three long weeks to be accessible to her entreaties, when, feeling convinced that this display of his sublime wrath must have produced a powerful effect on the refractory beauty, he once more bent his course to the palace of the Princess.

A rich gift to Nazip Hanoum announced her pardon; and when she had played and sung, seated on a cushion at his feet, and he had witnessed the graceful movements of the dancing girls, and partaken of the perfumed sherbet of his Imperial sister, he led the young beauty into the gardens of the palace, where she was compelled to listen for the third time to his thriftless suit. But, alas! for the lordly lover, the reflections of the past year had only strengthened her resolution, and she continued as unmoved by his protestations as she had been by his displeasure; and thus, Mahmoud returned once more to his seraglio as unsuccessful as ever.

Such is the sacredness of adoption among the Turks!

I have already mentioned that the Palace of Ortakeuy *fronts the* Bosphorus, from which it is separated

a broad path or terrace of marble, extending along a
nsiderable portion of the channel, and only broken at
tervals by the projection of the different palaces and
ellings that are built against the edge of the stream.
hile we were conversing with Nazip Hanoum, my at-
ntion was attracted by a peculiar signal rising from
is terrace, and evidently intended for the ear of some
r inhabitant of the Serai. As no answer was re-
rned, the shrill wild sound was repeated, when Nazip
anoum rose quietly from her cushions, and throwing
ck a small door which opened in the midst of the
ttice-work of one of the windows, demanded, in a
ne of pretty peevishness, why she was thus persecuted
hen she had announced her resolution not to receive
other letter. The reply to this appeal, brief as it was,
s conclusive; for, shrugging her shoulders with a
quettish gesture of impatience, she flung from the
sement a painted handkerchief secured by a silken
d attached to the window-frame, and, after the delay
a moment, drew it back, and took a letter from amid
folds, which, having read with a blush and a smile,
e thrust into the shawl that was bound about her
ist, with all the composure of a person to whom such
occurrence was no novelty.

We shortly afterwards proceeded to wait upon all the
incipal ladies of the household, who occupied apart-
ents opening from the same gallery as that of Nazip
anoum. The first whom we visited was the mother
the slaves, a serious, stately woman, of about fifty
ars of age, dressed in an antery and trousers of blue
chemire, very silent, and even sad-looking, whom w
itted as soon as we had satisfied her curiosity; for
e atmosphere of her stateliness did not appear con-
nial to our light-hearted conductress.

We were next introduced to Perousse Hanoum, the
ivate secretary of the Princess, who had been a fa-
urite Odalique of *Sultan Selim*; a woman remarkable

converse with her, without the interposition
person, I am sure that I should have been
for she was all energy and enthusiasm. He
crowded with Turkish and Greek women, s
cushions all over the floor; and close besid
her pale cheek resting upon her knees, sat
ladies of the Imperial Seraglio, who, havi
severely from a protracted indisposition, ha
obtained permission to spend a few weeks in
of the Princess, by whom she had been b
She was a lovely girl of eighteen or nin
richly dressed, but evidently broken-hearte
ever she was addressed, the tears rushed in
dark eyes, and every reply appeared to b
The gilded palace of her Imperial Master ha
been a mere prison to her; and you rea
blighted hope and spirit-sickness upon every
pallid face.

While we were in the apartment of the
Nazip Hanoum, at the request of the fai
visitor, sent a slave for her zebec, and playe
with considerable sweetness and execution:

è Hanoum; and, after having paid a number nteresting visits, we finally entered the principal of the harem. Here we found a sweet girl bout thirteen years of age, lying upon a pile of shions, having sprained her ankle a day or two pre-usly, while dancing before the Sultan. She was using herself by nursing a very fine infant, a recent rchase of the Princess, who had bought both it and s mother, at the earnest request of the latter; who, ving lost three husbands in the space of eighteen onths, and being left entirely destitute, had profited the well-known partiality of her Imperial Highness r children, to become an inmate of the Palace. The tle girl was the pet and plaything, not only of Azmè ltane, but of the whole harem; and was handed m one to the other, and caressed by all; while the ther did nothing but eat, sleep, and say her prayers; ich latter ceremony she performed with most edify-g ostentation.

What a bevy of fair girls occupied that apartment! hat eyes, and lips, and teeth were grouped together, they sat clustered like bees upon their cushions, th their delicate fingers clasped together, and almost aking their idleness look graceful! Here and there e lay fast asleep, with her cheek pillowed upon her nd, and a smile upon her lips, as though her last aking glance had been at the silver-mounted mirror hich lay beside her, and her last thought one of tri-nph at her young beauty.

A few were yet settling their cachemire girdles, and ranging their unwieldy head-dresses for the day, after eir return from the bath; while one laughing maiden, ho appeared to possess the talent in an extraordinary egree, was cutting court-plaster into various fantastic apes, and dispensing them to her numerous applicants, y whom they were immediately affixed to their care-lly-tinted *eyebrows*. *The Kislar-Agha*, meanwhile,

But, although there were many prettier wo
herself in the party, Nazip Hanoum was th
ot the Harem!" All gave way before her;
ful playfulness, her joyous laughter, her in
prices, were alike received with smiles and ap
and she appeared to be a general favourite, a
tify by her amiability the measureless affect
Imperial patroness. We were shortly join
roussè Hanoum, who accompanied one of th
the zebec, while she sang, or rather recited,
own compositions; after which the fair favou
the theorbo, and, while another of the party
tambourine, half a dozen voices pealed out
of the Sultan, who is also a poet, and who
enjoys the happiness of listening to his ow
tions, from the lips of the fair household of h
Sister.

The part taken in this concert by Nazip
and the Secretary was intended as a high c
to their Frank visitors; for the Turkish lad
as a degradation to exhibit a talent which
object of speculation and profit by hired per

men who were at work on all sides, "Do not look! e are coming out!" and, as a matter of course, every e of them turned towards her to utter their assurance obedience, while away ran the laughing girl to gather e gayest flowers of the parterre, as an offering to the ank ladies.

One fountain which we passed struck me as being eculiarly elegant; the stream, falling from an arti- ial eminence, filled successively eleven basins of hite marble, gradually increasing in size, until the last rmed a noble sheet of water immediately under the lace windows. The terraces were shaded by stately ees; and a gaily gilded kiosque, superbly painted in esco, throughout the whole of its interior, occupied e highest point of the grounds.

Having completed our survey of the gardens, and e Princess being still invisible, we proceeded, under e same guidance, to visit the state apartments, which ere situated immediately over the harem

The grand saloon, built above the marble hall, was e very embodiment of Eastern splendour. Its mag- ificently painted dome was supported by forty por- hyry pillars with gilt capitals; its walls were lined ith plate-glass; its doors veiled by silken draperies; s floor covered with Persian carpets; and the lattices hich veiled the entrance to the women's apartments ichly carved and gilt. At either extremity of the aloon, whose form was a fine oval, a noble flight of arble steps led downwards to the harem; and along he glittering balustrade were scattered groups of slaves, waiting the summons of their Imperial Mistress, and lad in the gaudiest colours.

The morning-room of the Sultana was flooded with unshine, and opened upon the terrace: the carpet, overing the floor, the cushions which were piled be- eath the windows, and the hangings of the walls, were ll *of the purest white, ornamented* with wreaths of es *while the roof, on which* the Orientals univer-

sally display most elaborate taste, was of a deep purple colour, ribbed and studded with golden stars.

The reception-room was in a different style: sombre, magnificent, and almost cloistral in its decorations; heavy with gilding, and gloomy with cornices; while the sleeping-chamber, hung with crimson and blue satin, and scattered over with perfumes and objects of taste, had an air of comfort and inhabitation almost English.

But the most elegant suite of rooms was that appropriated to the Sultan. A saloon whose thirty windows were hung with purple velvet fringed with gold; whose sofa-cushions were formed of glittering tissue; and whose walls were rich with plate-glass and gilding; whose floor was crowded with objects of *vertù*, and whose every table was scattered over with gems, opened into the Imperial sleeping-room, whose European bed, hung with flowered muslin, and decorated with knots of coloured ribbon, contrasted cheerfully with the heavy magnificence of the saloon and its elaborate draperies; while the mangal, of wrought silver, richly gilt, and the collection of jewelled toys which filled the two recesses at the end of the apartment, brought back the imagination to the gorgeous East.

Incense-burners of gold, studded with precious stones; ring-trays wreathed with rubies; a miniature of the Sultan himself in a frame thickly set with diamonds, and resting upon a cushion of white satin; a toilette of filigreed silver; a chocolate cup of enamel studded with pearls: and a gilt salver, covered with watches of all sizes and shapes, were part of the tempting array. But I was more delighted by a Koràn, and a manuscript collection of prayers, written by the Sultan, and splendidly illuminated. Both were bound in gold, with the Imperial cipher wrought upon each corner in brilliants, while a border was formed round the outer edges of the *volumes, of* passages from the holy writings, in different *coloured jewels.*

apartments that I traversed, than
myself to expect.

e were making our tour of the palace, orders
given by the Princess that the dancing girls
spare themselves to exhibit their skill for
ment; but, unfortunately, in the excess of
easness, she had resolved on treating us with
their new dresses and their new dances,
ided to be European; and assuredly such
were never before imagined. I will give the
of one—it will suffice to afford an idea of
. A dress of blue muslin, elaborately orna-
ith bows of pink and scarlet ribbon, was
nd the throat with a cord of green silk, which
n the back and terminated in two heavy
he petticoat was long and scanty, and was
ith two narrow flounces, edged with white
ick leather shoes of the coarsest description,
ands, a sash of pink and silver that swept
a necklace of pearl; and a head-dress at
rd across, where a mass of false hair was
l in flowers enough to decorate a supper table.

had found such favour in the eyes of the Sultana, that she only tolerated the Turkish costume on ordinary occasions.

As the day was waning to a close, and the distance to Pera was considerable, I was reluctantly obliged to decline the honour of dining in the palace, and awaiting until evening the appearance of the Princess, whose continued indisposition still confined her to her apartment; and accordingly, despite the remonstrances of our kind and courteous entertainers, I took my leave of the fair favourite and her talented friend; bearing with me an invitation from her Imperial Highness to repeat my visit at no distant period, when she might be able to receive and converse with me; and I then returned to Pera with an aching head and dazzled eyes.

I subjoin the little ballad of Peroussè Hanoum, which I have rendered almost literally into English verse. I could have wished that it had been somewhat more Oriental in its character, but its quaintness is at least sufficiently characteristic.

BALLAD.

My love for thee hath ta'en away my rest;
By day and night I think of thee alone;
I muse upon the curls which veil thy breast,
And sigh to know that thou art not mine own.

My love for thee is madness! All esteem
My passion folly who do look on me;
The arrows of thine eyes have drank the stream
Of my fond heart; and I must part from thee.

My love for thee is deep; and I of late
Can look upon none other—Thou art cold,
And 't is the working of my hapless fate
That I no more thy gracious smiles behold.

Leyla! be mine, and learn my spirit-wrong;
I 'll tell thee all my grief—the tale is long.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Barbyses—The Valley of the Sweet Waters—
ce-sion—National Inderdict—Picturesque Scene—
Salihé and her Infant—Forbearance of the Sultan
bolites—Imperial Monopoly—Passion of the Sul-
ery—Record-Columns—The Odalique's Grave—
e—Azmé Sultane—Imperial Courtesy—A Dive
Valley.

t spot in the neighbourhood of Constanti-
niably Kahaitchana; called by the Franks
of the Sweet Waters," a name as appro-
it is poetical.
ling Barbyses takes its rise amid the rich
f the valley, and traverses its greensward
hread. As a river it is inconsiderable, but,
ily fresh stream of any size within many
capital, it is an object of great enjoyment
ion.
' itself, like that of Rasselas, is shut in on
all and arid hills, amid which it nestles so
een, and sunny, that you feel at once that
ed by nature for holyday uses. Need I say
ltan has here both a summer palace and a
There exists no pretty spot near Stamboul
s them not; but the Palace of Kahaitchana
te retreat, where he generally retires to
the coil and cares of the capital, whenever
ive to wring a day's leisure from the stern
lic duty. The ride from *Pera is* delightful:
e hills *is so elastic that it* seems to instil new

life into your pulses; and the descent, so picturesque, that, despite your pres you are anxious to arrive in the lovely bathed in sunshine, at your feet.

A brighter day never shone from t that on which I joined a party who Kahaitchana. I had been indisposed and was too weak to indulge myself and accordingly, comfortably nestled o of my arabe, I suffered the more joyo of my friends to fly past me, and leisu way to the valley.

As I descended the hill, I saw a p riages issuing from the palace court, a way along the opposite bank of th forms the boundary of the Imperial g A mounted guard stopped me for an i of the height, but suffered me to pass a moment, as he had received no orde entrance of any Frank lady by that ro being confined to Greeks, Armenian Simply requesting me, therefore, to s as the Imperial family passed, he desi to proceed. I obeyed without hesita river is only a few feet in width I had of the distinguished party.

An open carriage, drawn by four fine led by a groom, contained the two you Sultan, the palace dwarf, and the princ Sultan's household. The infant prince ing child, with bright eyes and rosy ch healthy enough to be the son of a pea lock-carriages followed, and among t pants were the Princess Mihirmàh, l one of her sisters. Some of the you *exceedingly* lovely, and wore their yash *rent, and so* coquettishly arranged, t

distinctly. This is, however, by no means
rally speaking, as the inmates of the Im-
lo are more closely covered, when in a less
than any other of the Turkish women;
nber on one occasion to have seen a fa-
ique of the Sultan, who had a gauze across
well as wearing her yashmac close to their

negroes surrounded the carriages, and the
as closed by the Kislar-Agha, mounted on
bian horse, and accompanied by four at-
foot.

s the *cortège* had passed, I pursued my
und that my friends had been compelled
ircuit, and to enter the valley by another
did not communicate with the palace
othing could be more cheerful or more
than the scene that met my eye as I de-
the araba. The greensward was covered
groups; Wallachian and Bulgarian mu-
scattered among the revellers; Bohemian
were vending their pretty nosegays in every
skilfully arranged that each veiled fair one
tant whether the tale she wished to tell had
ated by the dark-eyed Flora; mounted
eared and disappeared along the crest of
they pursued their round of observation;
caique of white and gold was riding upon
ar one of the palace gates; Turkish servants
ng in all directions; every avenue of the
sidence was doubly guarded, and all was
xcitement.

e standing in front of the palace, two six-
es drew up beside the terrace, and shortly
appeared the Princess *Salihè*, the wife of
, attended by half a dozen negroes, and
y female slaves, and followed by the head

nurse carrying in her arms the [illegible] sion of whose birth Sultan Mahmoud unprecedented generosity.

Heretofore, as it was stated at the tim prints, all the Emperors of Turkey had children of their own offspring to be thus provided most efficiently against relatively to the succession. The chi now looked had not only been spared Grandsire, but public rejoicings had its birth—cannon had been fired, and been admitted to the Presence on audie tulation. It was a noble boy, laughin in the arms of its nurse; and, as the cal I busied myself with endeavouring to mind's eye the joy of the fond mother her child was to be spared to her. T however, fated to be transient, for Ma long released from his incipient enem little Prince were indeed destined one without dyeing his own hands in bloo after our visit to Kahaitchana he exp sions, induced by his sufferings in teeth

As I understood that His Highness archery with some of his favourite Pa on endeavouring to obtain a sight of cordingly one or two of our party detac from the rest, and, making a circuit o grounds, we arrived opposite the spot opholites were "speeding the winged mark." A heavy cloud that was p valley had already shed a few of th which fall upon the leaves with the weight of hail; and the Sultan was s red umbrella, held over his sacred p the officers of the Imperial Household. *Pashas were* standing in a line along th

ng; and a number of servants were dispersed over
wn, for the purpose of collecting the arrows.
opos of umbrellas—until the present reign, the
mbrella was sacred to the use of the Sultan; but
esent Highness, probably deeming the monopoly
inconsequent one, graciously removed the inter-
and I need scarcely add that red umbrellas are
he rage at Constantinople.
hery is a passion with Sultan Mahmoud, who
emely vain of his prowess; so much so, indeed,
long stretch of hilly country immediately in the
f the Military College is dotted over with marble
fancifully carved, and carefully inscribed, erected
spots where the arrows shot by himself from a
e on the crest of the height are supposed to have
—I say supposed, for, as his foible is no secret,
mperial pages who are employed to collect the
, and to measure the distances, generally pick
arrow and run on twenty or thirty paces further,
ey affect to find it; by which means the Sultan
like the Prince Aimwell in the Fairy Tale; and
nning varlets who restore his arrows earn many
kshish, or present, which more honest men would

I remember on one occasion, when on an ex-
g expedition, suddenly coming upon so hand-
a marble column, inscribed with letters of gold,
urmounted by an urn, that I was curious to learn
rport; when, to my surprise, I discovered that
as a record-pillar of the same description; and
Sublime Highness had on this occasion pulled a
long bow indeed, so he had perpetuated its me-
by a handsomer erection than usual.

e archery party at Kahaitchana was amusing
gh. First flew the arrow of the Sultan, and away
he attendants; then each Pasha shot in his turn,
g especial care to keep within bounds, and not to
Cæsar Cæsar. *Some of them looked* important,

and others horribly bored: but these was not from an amateur who boasts that he has practised week for the last forty years.

A little to the left of the spot occupied by the is a raised platform overshadowed by a weeping beneath which rises a handsome head-stone. grave of an Imperial Odalique, who died the very zenith of her youth, her beauty, favour. She was buried in this lovely spot, express command of the Sultan, who was so affected by her loss that for two entire years he doned the valley. The platform is overlooked windows of the Salemlick, and every wind whi through the willow branches carries their voic ears of those who occupy its gilded chambers. moud, in a fit of poetical despair, is said to have a pathetic ballad of which she was the subject. deavoured to procure it, but failed; and, as I wa that she should remain unsung in Europe, I ev my own hand in some wild stanzas, which I wro riedly as I stood near her grave.

THE LOST ONE.

Spring is come back to us—the laughing Spring;
Sunlight is on the waters—
And many a bright, and many a beaming thing,
O'er this fair scene its gladdening spell will fling,
For the East's dark-eyed daughters.
But where is She, the loveliest of the throng,
The painter's model, and the theme of song;
For whom the summer roses joyfully
Gave forth alike the beauty of their bloom,
Their dewy freshness, and their soft perfume:—
The loved of the World's Monarch—Where is She?

Alas! for her the Spring returns in vain;
Her home is with the sleepers:—
She will not join in the glad song again
With which she once subdued the spirit-pain
Of the earth's pale-browed weepers.

For her the dance is ended—and for her
The flowers no more will their bright petals stir;
Nor the sad bulbul wake his melody:
The sunshine falls on every hillock's crest,
The pulse of joy beats high in every breast:
But She, the loved and lost one, where is She?

She lies where lie the last year's faded flow'rs;
She sleeps where sleep the proudest;
And there are eyes that will weep burning show'rs;
And there are sighs will wear away the hours
When the heart's grief is loudest.
Yet mourn her not, she had her day of pride,
The East's dread sovereign chose her for his bride;
The sunlight rested on her favour'd brow:
Like a fair blossom blighted in its bloom,
She filled an early but a cherished tomb,
And where the mighty linger, rests She now?

Despite the sentiment of the thing, however, the beautiful Odalique has been long forgotten; and the bevy of beauties who wander near her grave have no time to sigh over her fate. It was, nevertheless, consolatory to my romance to remark that the Sultan shot his arrows in another direction.

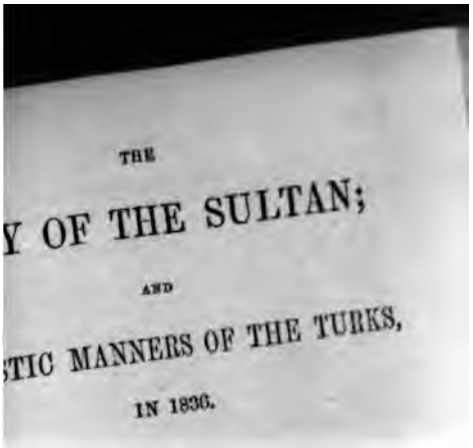
On leaving the neighbourhood of the Toxopholites, I returned, accompanied by a Greek lady, to the araba, and drove higher up the valley; where we came in contact with the carriages of Azmè Sultane and her suite. On seeing us, she stopped, and, after inquiring if I were the Frank lady whom she had invited to her palace, she courteously and condescendingly expressed her regret that her indisposition had rendered her unable to receive me, but desired that I would hold myself engaged to spend another day in the Seraï ere long. She then, as a mark of especial favour, sent one of her negroes to the araba, with the infant to whom I have already made allusion, and whom I discovered to be the namesake of my lovely acquaintance, Heyminè Hanoum: the child was richly *and fantastically* dressed; and, when *I had praised its beauty,* admired its co-

tume, and restored it to the attendant, I received gracious salutation from Her Highness, who followed by her suite.

The Princess, who is the widow of a Pasha, looking woman, with a very aristocratic mien strongly resembles her brother. She has evidently handsome, but must now be more than sixty age. Her fair favourite, Nazip Hanoum, beside her, but so closely veiled, that, until after me, I was unable to recognise her.

As we continued our drive, we passed a groups of which an artist might have made studies. All was enjoyment and hilarity came and went along the bright river; stretched their long branches over the greensward voices were on the wind; the cloud had passed and the sunlight lay bright upon the hill-tops not a spot on earth where the long, sparkling day may be more deliciously spent than in the Valley of the Sweet Waters.

END OF VOL. I.


THE

Y OF THE SULTAN;

AND

STIC MANNERS OF THE TURKS,

IN 1836.

BY MISS PARDOE,

OR OF "TRAITS AND TRADITIONS OF PORTUGAL,"

&c. &c. &c.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:

G. CLARKE AND CO., 66, OLD BAILEY.

1845.

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Throne of the Patriarch—The Holy Sepulchre—Sin-
ppearance of the Congregation—Sociability of the
L'Echelle des Morts—Shipping—Boats and Boatmen
of the Fanar—Ancient Screen—Treasure Chests—
ctuary—Private Chapels—A Pious Illumination—
House—Prison—Remedy against Mahomedanism—
: Mass—Unexpected Greetings—The Patriarch—Logo-
ssian Secretaries—Russian Supremacy in Turkey—
of Religion between the Greeks and Russians—The
—Pious Confusion—Patriarch's Palace—Lovely Night-
lidnight Procession—Serious Impressions—Suffocat-
—Dawn.

Easter was over. The last dinner had been
he last quadrille had been danced; politics
eded to parties, and diplomacy to dissipation;
Greeks were preparing to celebrate the festi-
all the pomp and circumstance of the most
and glowing of religions. I took this oppor-
paying my first visit to the Greek Church of
elegant edifice built at the expense of the
government, and richly decorated with blue
; where the service is performed both in Greek
, and all the priests are Russians.
k lady, *whose acquaintance* I had made, po-

litely offered me the use of her seat, which I accepte
the more gladly, that without such accommodation
must have failed in my attempts to witness the cer
mony; most of the females being obliged to conte
themselves with hearing the service, without a hope
seeing it. This difficulty arises from the fact that t
women are not permitted to occupy the body of t
church, but are confined to a gallery so closely lattic
that it is impossible for those below to catch the faint
glimpse of the secluded fair ones.

The appearance of a Greek church differs from th
of the Roman Catholics, infinitely more than do
several religions. The Sanctuary, in the midst of wh
stands the High Altar, is separated from the church
a close screen; and there are neither aisles nor late
chapels. The whole edifice is lighted by chandeli
suspended from the ceiling in three straight lin
reaching from the Sanctuary to the principal entran
and the screen is ornamented with the effigies of sai
hardly and drily painted; which frequently figur
such sort in their temples as thoroughly to exone
them from the imputation of making to themselve
"likeness of anything in heaven, or on earth, or i
waters under the earth." Nor is this all; for the
being to the full as prone to make votive offerin
their favourite saints as any Roman Catholic in
or Portugal, the staring, wooden pictures are fu
more decorated with gold and silver hands, eyes
or noses, as the case may be; which gives them so
cal an effect that the gravest person cannot conte
them without a smile.

The centre of the screen is closed by a curtain
the low double door opening into the churc
veil shrouding from the eyes of the congregati
holy of holies," according to the old Jewish r
the present occasion, the curtain was drawn b
the High Priest was robing himself in front of

one was on the right hand, and
to it was the pulpit; while at
urch on each side of the door
chests of polished wood, contain-
nd properties. In the centre of
placed the boast and treasure of
which once formed part of the
ur, affirmed to have been brought
, and ultimately deposited here.
s point was enormous: the dense
lbowing each other most deter-
approach; which, when they had
em to cross themselves, according
church, seven times successively
o be acquired by long practice,
mity of the stone, leaving a piece
r of the attendant priest.
of at least seven inches in dia-
in front of the Sanctuary, and on
he sepulchre; and the glare fell
of heads, some shaven close, some
le long tress of hair hanging from
alf-shaved, as though a platter
the cranium of the individual,
ad operated round its edges; and
velled elf-locks falling about their
was perfectly ludicrous!
ics in the gallery were not idle:
changed, inquiries made and an-
ions carried on, as coolly as though
l been quietly seated in their own
ive or six minutes a priest made
ng a salver to receive the dona-
d charitable. But I soon wearied
ious chant of the officiating priests,
interacted the light and gladsome

aspect of the edifice; and, entailed
great deal of paint and gilding,
tissue and embroidery, as well as
the crowd at a particular period
sess themselves of the candles that
clare, I escaped from the scene of
slowly taking my way through
burial ground, and onward to the
I gladly stepped into the caïque,
hospitable roof of a friend, in the
nials which were to take place in the
church at the Fanar.

As we traversed the port, I was
character of the shipping, more
cuous under a flood of bright sun
war (one of them the largest in
like floating cities on the still surf
Bosphorus: the foreign merchan
dense ranks along the shore, with
their slender masts shooting upwa
of a wind-stripped forest; the A
sharp high prows and sterns, pre
seen them represented on the
steam-packets, dark and motionl
sters, about to vomit forth the
suffocating smoke upon the clear
around, and among all these, dar
whirled, the slender caïques of
walnut wood, with their graceful
their minute gilded ornaments gl
the sharp shrill cry of "On t
"On the Asiatic side!" ringing
moment, as the boatmen indicat
which course to steer, in order t
passage.

* "*Ladder* of the Dead;" a pier
the small cemetery.

aded on a terrace overhanging the water, at
mity of our friend's garden; and after taking
h the ladies, immediately set forth to visit the
y daylight. Though more limited in its di-
, and less rich in its decorations, than the
t Pera, it nevertheless pleased me infinitely
there was an air of time-hallowed holiness
whole of its interior, far more attractive than
led paint and fresh gilding which I had seen in
ing.
triarch's throne, simple, and even clumsy in
and fashion, had existed for twelve hundred
d was consequently respectable from its anti-
ose beside it stood the raised and high-backed
Logotheti; and about twenty feet beyond,
the magnificent screen of the Sanctuary, deli-
rved in dark oak. This screen particularly
me, the workmanship was so minute and
, and the columns which separated the panels
high and bold relief. Here, as at Pera, dry,
age-looking Saints ornamented the spaces be-
em, and were equally decorated with the in-
s and disjointed offerings of their votaries.
ost popular personage of the whole calendar
he Greeks is decidedly St. George, who had
han two entire effigies in beaten silver in this
The pulpit was of mosaic, thickly overstrown
rs of mother-of-pearl; and two large chests,
o those which I have already named, were
d of the same materials. The women's gal-
even more closely latticed than that at Pera,
lood of light without was admitted so sparingly
high and infrequent casements, that a solemn
reigned throughout the edifice, which accorded
ly with its antique and somewhat gloomy cha-

s to the guidance under which we entered, th

priest who admitted us was obliging enough to open the other extremity of the church, and thus afforded an opportunity of penetrating into the sanctuary which the profane foot of woman is supposed never to tread. It consisted of a small chapel, containing nothing of any means remarkable, spread with the ... and furnished with a high-backed chair of marble for the ... fountain for the use of the officiating ... miserable oil-paintings, and a vast number of ... pictures of Saints and Virgins, placed there ... certain time for "a consideration," to be ... by the sanctity of the spot ere they were ... private chapels of the different families: ... however limited in fortune, having an equal ... house fitted up as an oratory.

I was, however, much more amused (for ... only applicable word) in watching the pro... Greek lady who had accompanied me, ... plating the portly saints and florid martyrs ... was surrounded. A slight iron rail ... screen at the base of the paintings for the ... supporting the tapers which the zeal of the ... inclined to consume in their honour; and ... nion was busily employed in lighting a scor... minute candles at a lamp that is constantly ... for the purpose; humming in an under-tone ... did so, the barcarolle in Masaniello, which ... changed, as she commenced her survey of ... group, for such exclamations as the following

"The Virgin—I shall give her four, because ... name is Mary—and look, I pray you, at ... effect of her gold hand and her silver crown ... light flashing on them. Now comes St. G... like St. George, so he shall have two. Who is ... St. Nicholas; I cannot bear St. Nicholas, so I ... him by."

I ventured to intercede in his favour.

Very well; then, as you wish it, there is one for
but he never was a favourite of mine: there are
aints in the calendar to whom I never burn a taper
Nicholas and St. Demetrius."
was, however, finally settled that no partialities
to be indulged on the present occasion, and con-
ntly the effect produced was that of a miniature
lination. My curiosity being satisfied, and the
offering of my companion completed, we pro-
d to make a tour of the vast monastic-looking
ling forming one side of the enclosure, and which
propriated to the priests. Ascending an exterior
of steps, we found ourselves in a wide gallery,
ace the apartments opened on the right and left,
sely as the cells are arranged in a convent. One
ese small, but comfortable, rooms is allotted to
individual; and those which we visited were very
fully carpeted and curtained, with divans of chintz,
every luxury customary in Greek apartments. In
y of them we found ladies taking coffee with their
ers, while servants were hurrying to and fro, full of
le and importance.
ltogether there was an atmosphere of comfort about
establishment, which quite made me overlook its
rwise dreary extent; and as I passed out by another
r, having before me the Palace of the Patriarch, I
no inclination to commiserate the worldly condition
is subordinates.
rom the Priest's house we proceeded to the prison,*
ere we found one miserable urchin of twelve years
, "in durance vile" for an attempt to turn Mus-
maun; he was ragged and almost barefooted, and
ne pious Turk had promised to recompense his

The fact of the Patriarch being *not only* the head of the
rch, but also the chief *magistrate of his nation*, will account
the *proximity of the prison to the Episcopal* Palace.

What analogy the good papas had t
the mosque and the mad-house I know
punishment was certainly a most origina
one. The boy told us his own tale, an
with a broad grin, that he would take t
Two other prisoners, accused of theft,
suffer their sentence in a day or two:
cases, accompanied by branding on the
most aggravated of the two; and, me
confinement. They were a couple of s
desperate ruffians, and laughed in his fac
spoke of them. We were then shown
and the rings and chains for insubordin
and, after having made a donation whic
with a surprise perfectly untrammelled
I returned to the residence of our hospitab
the rattling of fetters in my ears, and a th
fancies floating over my brain.

At half past ten o'clock we repaired
the church, in order to assist at the m
where a Greek lady very politely gave
me, that I might have an uninterrupt

e gallery, enabled me to contemplate
a scene as I had ever witnessed in a
The fair tenants of the front seats
he same appearance as a parterre of
re turbans of every tint, dresses of
s of every form; and such a constant
d fuss; such bowing, smiling, and
began to fancy there must be some
we were, in fact, gathered together
ere worldly exhibition.
onous chanting of the priests, which
tarily suspended, was suddenly re-
rned away from a score of polite
by persons of whom I had not the
ion, but to whom I had doubtlessly
ring the carnival, in order to observe
neath me.
vas seated on his throne, dressed in
te satin, clasped on the breast with
ond ornament, over which was flung
ssue; the borders of the robe were
t a foot in depth with portraits of
needlework of different colours, in-
ld and silver threads. His crown of
s nearly covered with immense pearls,
erent figures; the intermediate spaces
y rubies, emeralds, and brilliants, of
ustre. He held his staff in one hand,
the Gospel, bound in white satin, and
els; and, at every movement that he
by which he was surrounded flashed

either sleeping or running, are eagerly kissing the throne of the Greek Patriarch, and kissing the hand which is extended to them!

The act in itself is simple. It is the effect produces on the minds of the people which dreaded. The expression of delighted admi the countenances of the crowd was a perfect following in the wake of Logotheti and Vog less important persons had an opportunity homage to the Patriarch, the all-powerful all-powerful Russia bent a willing knee to sacred hand. A common interest was create and no tie is so sure as that of religious fa Greeks already writhe in their fetters—the loathe their task-masters—the tree is canke core, and hollowed in the trunk: let Russia axe, and it will fall.

The Moslem—be he lured to ruin as guilli may, and flattered into security as blandly minal of his country, who finds the rope neck ere he knows that he is condemned—is t prey of his semi-barbarous ally. The for

key be supported for a while, as her own
hat she should be; let her find the ready
ıropean powers, in which she so fondly
she will, ere long, prove herself worthy to
among the nations. Her military and
require only time; her soldiers have
evidence of their courage, and, having
comparatively undisciplined, will natu-
still higher attributes when acting as a
l body; in which each individual receives,
ves, support. Let the Russian medal be
ıe dust of the city streets—and this will
ffort on the part of those who wear it,
easts it burns, and who consider it rather
f disgrace, than as a creditable badge—
ın require no spirit of prophecy to foretell
sperity of Turkey. To the East, Europe
or her knowledge of military tactics and
rdination, and she can well afford to pay
. Half a dozen experienced officers would,
nths, change the whole appearance and
Turkish army.

tion), which produced a sudden burst of light absolutely thrilling. As I looked down upon the struggling and stifling crowd beneath me, so closely wedged together that it was with difficulty they could raise the arm holding the taper, which each lit by that of his neighbour, the scene was most extraordinary. A dense vapour was even then rapidly spreading its heavy folds over the whole edifice, and, in a few moments, I could distinguish nothing but a sea of heads, and a multitude of pigmy lights, feebly struggling through the thick smoke.

The fiery and impetuous Greeks, enthusiastic in all their feelings—in religion, in love, in hate, and in ambition—did not in the present instance, confine themselves so scrupulously as an European congregation would have done, to the space assigned to them,—half a dozen wild, bandit-looking individuals clambered into the pulpit—a score more clung to the steps—those who chanced to be nearest to the vacated stalls of the Bishop appropriated them without ceremony—others hung by the pillars which supported the gallery,—and thus sufficient space was with difficulty insured by the pantin beadles for the passage of the procession.

At this moment, I followed my friend from the church, and, four or five sturdy servants having with considerable effort forced a way for us to the Patriarch' Palace, we hastened to take possession of his private sitting-room, which, as it overlooked the enclosure in which the church was situated, and where the procession was to halt, he had politely offered, in order to secure the gratification of my curiosity.

The night was one of beauty. The pale moon was riding high among masses of fleecy clouds, which were pillowed upon the deep blue of the sky, forming towers, and palaces, and islets, so changeful and fleeting *that they looked* like the ephemeral creations of fairy-*land. A lofty* and leafy plane-tree, whose foliage had

rly burst beneath the soft influence of spring, was
ling gently in the midnight wind; and the long
k outline of the monastic buildings, and the slanting
f of the church, loomed out in the faint moonlight,
h a mysterious depth of shadow well suited to the
unity of the hour. The wide doors of the sacred
ice suddenly fell back; the low chant of the choir
lled upon the night air; and forth rushed the eager
wd which had so lately thronged the church; each
h his lighted taper in his hand; and pressing for-
d to a raised platform in the centre of the enclo-
, railed in for the convenience of the Patriarch and
train of dignitaries.

re long, the whole of the wide space was like a sea,
which the dark waves flung themselves upwards in
r sparks, while they rolled and swelled in gloom
eath the surface; or like a spot upon a sky of tem-
, into which were gathered all the stars of heaven
form one galaxy of light amid the surrounding
m. And forth into this place of brightness slowly
ed the holy train from the chapel. First came the
er of the golden crucifix, surrounded by gilded lan-
s and gleaming candlesticks; and next the torch-bear-
whose waxen candles, linked together in threes with
dily-coloured ribbons, represented the Trinity; then
ed forward a train of priests, walking two and two,
h their flowing robes of saffron-coloured satin, their
uriant beards sweeping down to their breasts, their
nless caps, and their long locks falling upon their
ulders.

Nothing can be more picturesque than the head-
s of a Greek priest. As they are not permitted to
either scissors or razor from the period of their
th, when they are vowed to the Church by their
ents, they reduce the beard by *plucking* it, accord-
; to the old *Jewish law; and, being almost univer-
ly very fine men, they do this with a care and skill*

in the Greek Church, represent the Ap
Patriarch himself personates the Saviour;
by the ten others in robes of such dazzl
that any attempt at description would be
diately after these came the Bishops, wal
two: succeeded in their turn by Logoth
ride, another train of priests, and finally
tion of the congregation who had not bee
an earlier egress from the church.

The junior priests arranged themselve
the foot of the platform, which was soon
heads of the Church, and the lay digni
whom stood my father. The Patriarch r
of the scriptures, from an ample volume
on the stand before him; the attendant p
a psalm which rose and fell on the night w
cadences; and, finally, the elder of the Bi
placed in the hand of the Patriarch on
candles which I have already named,
bless the people; and subsequently two lit
representing the double nature of Chris
crowd bowed their uncovered heads, and

uncertain moon, over which the light
idly drifting; while the only sound that
cars was the sighing of the midnight
the leaves of the tall plane-tree. I
ad in silence upon the cushion against
ed; my excited fancies were suddenly
throbbing pulses stilled; nature had
heart, and my spirit was subdued beneath
It was a sudden and strange reaction;
it that moment have escaped to the soli-
wn chamber, I do not think that one idle
e magnificence which I had so lately wit-
have intruded on my reveries.
le, and pomp, and power, had fettered
d riveted my gaze; but it was night;
ight, with its pale moon, its mysterious
ts sighing voice, which had touched my
ch hours, the heart would be alone with

re-entered the church, I feared that I
fainted; thick volumes of smoke were
y along the roof; the suffocating incense
in columns from the censers; the myriad
lding their heat to that of the burning
l the transition from the light pure atmo-
it was sickening. I persisted, neverthe-
termination of remaining until the close
ny, which concluded with the Declaration
l by Logotheti; and a portion of the
ered from the pulpit, by a priest, richly
e and silver.
ight of morning was glimmering on the
we returned to the house, where we
nd then retired to bed with aching heads
eyes, to prepare for the fatigues of the

**Feasting after Fasting—Visit to the Patriarch—C
cession—Inconvenient Enthusiasm—Indispositi
triarch—The Ceremony of Unrobing—The Imp
The Patriarch at Home—The Golden Eggs.**

To what a breakfast did we sit down t
morning! The long and rigorous fast wa
a hearty vengeance was to be taken for
forty days of penance and abstinence. It
to remark with what interest every dish wa
and how universally each was rejected wh
composed of some hitherto forbidden l
centre of the table was occupied by a po
filled with eggs boiled hard, and stained a
logwood; but it was placed there merely in
with the national custom, as an Easter em
this, the first day of emancipation from
fast, no individual of the party had a thoug
on such primitive fare.

At the conclusion of the meal, I went,
by my father, and a fine youth who had
college for the Easter recess, and who vo

the gorgeous procession which was con-
Patriarch home after eight and forty hour
ceremonial. We had ample time to enjoy
, for the throng was so dense, that it was
most difficulty that the beadles and ka-
l force a passage through the excited and
ultitude, for the objects of their over-
l inconvenient enthusiasm. Nor did the
m likely to decrease, for the crowd were
out from the church, clinging one to the
ure their footing, and defying alike the
ed whips of the beadles, and the powerful
taves of the police.
rch, who had rigorously observed the fast
the whole of Lent; and who had, imper-
rtially recovered from a severe and linger-
was little able, after forty-eight consecutive
rtion, to contend with this unlooked-for
us demand upon his energies; and, as he
ard, supported by two of the Bishops, he
implored the forbearance of the people,
r eagerness to kiss the hem of his garment.

jewels and embroidery in which they we
who took their places in line along th
divan, and there awaited in silence the
two Archbishops who preceded the Pa
sight was dazzling! on all sides a ma
precious stones, of tissue and embroid
itself: and the eye actually ached with g
the lapse of a few seconds, the Great D
arrived; and, as I advanced to kiss th
Patriarch, I felt completely overawed l
ficence of the spectacle.

The ceremony of unrobing followed,
the solemn chanting of the priests, who
lery through which the train had pass
once interrupted; and as the Bishops
after robe of costly silk, gorgeous broc
tering tissue, I only marvelled how th
supported such a weight of dress amid th
had so unmercifully pressed upon them l
sinking under it!

A furred mantle having been flung ove

sherbet-vendors and confectioners, without festival is complete in the East.

arch doors were already closed: and the ver- ecks were now as ardent and eager in the f pleasure as they had been but an hour pre- n that of salvation. Most of them were em- n rearranging their turbans, which had been d in the late struggle; others were squatted ground, eating *yahourt* (a sort of coagulated ilk) out of small earthen basins, which they d with their forefinger, with a rapidity perfectly ing; and others again surrounding a *mahalibé* ant, whose large tray, neatly covered with a white china saucers, and shining brass spoons shaped rowels, enhanced the relish of the dainty which he nsed, and which was eaten with rose-water and tered sugar.

servant having announced that the Patriarch ted us in another apartment, we followed him to a ous saloon in the opposite wing of the palace, where ound the magnificent Prelate seated in a cushioned raised a few steps from the floor. He had ex- ged his partycoloured raiment for a flowing robe iolet silk with a falling collar of velvet, and wore t his neck a massive gold chain, from which was nded a star of brilliants. On his right hand were baskets of variegated wickerwork; the one con- ng eggs of a crimson colour richly gilt, and the filled with eggs of white and gold; while, on his hand, a larger basket was upheaped with others ly stained with logwood, like those which I had on the breakfast table.

e received us with much politeness; and, through medium of our young friend, who made an ad- ble Dragoman, he asked me several questions on mpressions which I *had received in the* East; ap-

Coffee and sweetmeats were shortly after
and, as I was aware that the anti-room
with persons who were waiting to pay thei
to him, I rose to depart; when he pres
couple of the gilded eggs, which he acco
flattering expression of the pleasure that
afforded to him, and a hope that he shoul
when his health was re-established. I m
some a reply as I was capable of doing ;
lips the holy fingers which were extende
and took my leave.

I was not aware, as I received the eggs
of the compliment that had been paid
I only learned accidentally, on inquiring
meaning of so singular an offering. Th
was informed, is of so ancient a date, th
save its antiquity, can now be adduc
servance; but great ceremony is kept up
bution. To the principal persons of th
Patriarch gives two of those eggs whic
the next in rank one gilt and one plain
one gilt; then two plain; and finally

d the delicious Easter cake peculiar to the
d immediately afterwards embarked in our
ich was to convey us to the *Echelles des*
rder to witness the festivities of the Armo-
great cemetery.

CHAPTER III.

High Street of Pera—Dangers and Donkeys—Araba—Founders of the Orientals for their gular Spectacle—Moral Supineness of the Nubar—The Fair—Armenian Dance—Anti-I Venders—Being à la Franka—Wrestling Rh the Sects.

THE Araba was already at the door w at home; and, weary with mounting t to Pera, I gladly threw myself upon th tress, and among the yielding cushion to become a spectator of this new festi inaction.

Let no one venture either on foot, o in a carriage, along the all-but-inte Street of Pera, on a fête-day, if he be l the first-place, two moderately-sized i chance to be opposite neighbours ma from their own doors without moving a and in the next there is no other ro hannè or Galata (the principal landin Great Cemetery. And then the nati have a very sociable, but extremely inc of walking with their arms about eacl or holding hands like children in parti although they are obliged, from the na thoroughfare, to move along sideways; less, they will not slacken their hold un for so doing becomes sufficiently impera *alternative*.

Another peculiarity attending an Eas

regard of being run over, or knocked down: ital will see your horse's nose resting on his , and even then he will not move out of the til you compel him; and when your arabajhe him that he is almost under the wheel of the e, he looks at him as though he wondered at the waste of words bestowed upon so insignificant of information.

, if the bipeds are difficult of management, the apeds are altogether unmanageable! Let those nerves are shattered by the rattle of the London come here, and have their temper tried by the eys of Constantinople. You have scarcely turned orner of the street, and forced your way among linging, chattering, lounging mob, ere you come a a gang of donkies; your horse is restless, he imps the bit, paws with his fore-leg, and backs among crowd, in his impatience to get on; you must be tented to allow him the privilege of champing, paw- , and backing, for there is no contending against a ng of a dozen donkeys, laden with tiles.

While you are trying to look amused at your di- ma, and endeavouring with "favour and fair words" aduce their owner to arrange them in regular line rder to enable you to pass, you hear a portentous tter a hundred yards ahead; you look forward with eboding, and your fears have not misled you: it is, eed, "the meeting of the donkeys:" and another g, heavily charged with earth, or bricks, or unhewn ne, are gravely approaching to entangle themselves ong your first favourites, and to be dislodged only h blows and kicks very ill calculated to pacify either a or your horse.

In an araba your case is still more hopeless; for a se *must* get on at last, by dint of intruding upon e pavement, and impudently *poking* his nose into ery window; *applying his shoulder* to the back of

whether you possess sufficient strength
tenacity of finger, to enable you to rem
such violent proceedings are taking
And when to these difficulties are su
convenience of a dense, reckless, pleasu
it must be conceded on all hands that th
the High Street of Pera on a festival da
"easy travelling."

On the occasion of which I am al
encountered three detachments of donk
six horses laden with timber, and a
fortunately, we were by no means p
though how we escaped victimizing a f
subjects of his Sublime Highness, I ca
me to explain.

I have already spoken elsewhere of
if not absolute enjoyment, with which
of the East frequent their burying-gr
the occasion of this festival I was mor
ever by the extent to which it is carri
of the Christian Cemetery had assumed
of a fair: nor was this all, for the ve

in the merry-go-round was the earth which had been heaped upon the breast of the man whose course was run; the same trees flung their long shadows over the sports of the living and the slumbers of the dead; the kibaub merchants had dug hollows to cook their delicacies under the shelter of the tombs; and the smoking booths were amply supplied with seats and counters from the same wide waste of death.

On one side, a slender train of priests were committing a body to the earth, and mingling their lugubrious chant with the shrill instruments of a party of dancers; on the other, a patrol of dismounted lancers were threading among the many-coloured tents, in order to maintain an order which the heavy-witted Armenians lacked all inclination to break.

I never saw a set of people who bore so decidedly the stamp of having been born to slavery as the Armenians: they seem even to love the rattle of their chains; they have no high feeling, no emulation, no enthusiasm, no longing for "a place among the nations;" no aspirations after the bright and the beautiful; no ideas, in short, beyond a pitiful imitation of their Moslem masters, whom they consider as the *ne plus ultra* of all perfection.

The appearance of the upper class of Armenians I have already described. Give them a more becoming head-dress, and their costume is surpassingly graceful; but their advantages are all external; their dreams are all of piastres; they have no soul. If you talk to them of their subjection to the Osmanli, what do they reply? "All that you say may be very true, but it does not concern me; my affairs are in a most prosperous condition."

It is impossible to make them sensible of their own social position; they listen, twirl their mustachios, flourish their white hankerchiefs, replenish their bonques, utter *from time to time* "*pekke*" (very well)

Constantinople, and who have had the
advantage of his acquaintance, I need
that I allude to M. Nubar, the eminent
Galata, whose extensive information, sou
and habitual courtesy, render his friends
valuable to those who are fortunate enou

To return, however, to the festival
des Morts, from which I have digressed.
dred yards that we advanced, the scene
striking. One long line of diminutive
a temporary street of eating-houses; t
baubs, pillauf, fritters, pickled vegetable
stuffed with fine herbs, sausages, fried
every quality, and cakes of all dimensio
from this too savoury locality, we fo
among the sherbet vendors, whose m
with blue or crimson, were pitched wi
cision and regard to comfort and con
those of the *restaurateurs*. Mirrors, bo
display of goblets of all shapes and si
fully set forth in many of them; some
in the luxury of pictures which we

nds of the itinerant merchants, whose little
untains threw up a slender thread of water
npaniment of a tinkling sound, produced
act of half a dozen thin plates of metal;
le of sherbet glasses, filled with liquids of
lours, and interspersed with green boughs,
led lemons, looked so cool and refreshing
were more tempting by far than the aristo-
ilishments of the marquee owners. Here
a flat tomb, fancifully covered with gold-
d handkerchiefs, was overspread with sweet-
reserved fruits; while, in the midst of these
ishments, groups of men were seated in a
ever a little shade could be obtained, smok-
ig pipes in silence, with their diminutive cof-
ting on the ground beside them. The wooden
rhanging the Bosphorus was crowded; and
ty was snugly niched among the acacias,
backs resting against the tombs, and the
ckering at their feet.

eading feature of the festival was the Arme-
, that was going forward in every direction,
was so perfectly characteristic of the people
rits particular mention. A large circle was
quently consisting of between forty and fifty
(chance comers falling in as they pleased
estion or hindrance), holding each other by
r round the neck, and wedged closely to-
s to form a compact body; the leader of the
the only one who detached himself from
nd held the person next to him at arm's
the centre of the ring stood, and sometimes
e musician, whose instrument was either a
nall, cracked guitar, with wire strings, which
with very slender regard to either time or
bagpipe precisely similar to that of Scot-
t played in the same spirit-stirring style,

such as I have described him, moved t
the company, who also, by some extra
perfectly Armenian concatenation of id
Master of the Ceremonies.

The leader flourished a painted mus
chief, while he lifted up first one foot
other, as fowls do sometimes in a farm-y
the body on one leg for an instant, and t
the position. This movement was foll
whole of the party with more or less a
and thus hopping, balancing, and shifti
they slowly worked round and round the
out changing either the time or the n
several consecutive hours; the differen
falling in and out of the ring as the
prompted, without disturbing in the sli
the economy of the dance. There was n
sive in these Terpsichorean circles, whe
serving-man's neck was clasped by the
of the street-porter, and where the eml
banian legging and European shoe we
juxtaposition with the bare limb and he

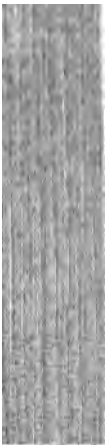
lly formed earthen jars upon their shoulders, ir crystal goblets in their hands, who, for a of *paras*,* poured forth a draught of sparkling which almost made one thirsty to look at it; and particular and punctilious in cleansing the glass ery customer, as though they were under the *ance* of his successor.

, a very few, of the revellers had indulged in potations, and were exhibiting proofs of their y in their unsteady gait and uncertain utter- ut intemperance is not *yet* the common vice of t; although it bids fair in time to become such. talented and distinguished individual, with I was lately conversing on the subject of the t degrees of civilization attained by particular , said of the Russians that they had commenced hampagne and ballet-dancers. Glorious was it, re, for the half-dozen Armenians who were ing among the crowd to have profited as far could by so brilliant an example. Being in- ed is, according to the Eastern phrascology, *la Franka.*

rt from the crowd were wrestling-rings, where nbatants exhibited their prowess precisely after shion of the Ancient Romans; and on all sides ands of Bohemians, as dark eyed and as voluble gipsies of Europe.

festival lasted three days, and not a single hand ice was raised in violence during the whole pe- when, as if resolved to vindicate themselves from persion of utter insensibility, the catholic and atic sects terminated their sports with a regular in front of an Armenian church in Galata. The atic party were returning to the place of em-

* smallest *actual coin in existence, of* which twenty are *ne penny English.*



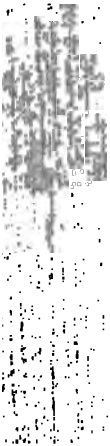
crowd collected; the merits of the case we
the catholics became furious, and insisted
stant departure of the intruders; the schis
valiant, and refused to move; and, finally,
in which many blows were given and
Turks stepped in as mediators, and carrie
of the combatants to Stamboul, where t
tained for the night, fined a few piastres, a
like a set of lubberly schoolboys, who had
holyday with a boxing-match!

CHAPTER IV.

ues at Midnight—Baron Rothschild—Firmans and
A Proposition—Masquerading—St. Sophia by Lamp-
ie Congregation—The Mosque of Sultan Achmet—
Pillars—Return to the Harem—The Cheik-Islam—
ithiany—The Party—St. Sophia by Daylight—Erro-
npression—Turkish Paradise—Piety of the Turkish
—The Vexed Traveller—Disappointment—Confusion of
lure—The Sweating Stone—Women's Gallery—View
e Gallery—Gog and Magog at Constantinople—The
rable Door—Ancient Tradition—Leads of the Mosque
r of the Dome—The Doves—The Atmeidan—Tree of
Mosque of Sultan Achmet—Antique Vases—Histori-
it—The Inner Court—The Six Minarets—The Mosque
aniè—Painted Windows—Ground-plan of the princi-
ues—The Treasury of Solimaniè—Mausoleum of So-
ie Magnificent—Model of the Mosque at Mecca—Man-
in General—Indispensable Accessories—The Medresch
e of Sultan Mahmoud at Topp-hanè.

BEFORE I am about to describe to my readers a
at the mosques, I must nevertheless first con-
i into the mosques at midnight, by recounting
St. Sophia and Sultan Achmet, which I have
orborne to mention, in the hope (since realized)
enabled, ere my departure from Constanti-
th to form and to impart a better idea of these
ent edifices than my first adventurous survey
ered me capable of doing.

; a visit which I made to a Turkish family,
m I had become acquainted, the conversation
i the difficulty of obtaining a Firman to see
ues; *when it was stated* that Baron Roths-



the marble doors were permitted to fall
foreign minister at the Porte can also clain
to this effect during his sojourn in the cou
privilege extends no further; and I had t
tion to find, on my arrival at Constantino
only (those of England and the United
failed to avail themselves of it, while thos
nounced their determination to defer so d
period of their probable departure.

In vain I questioned and cross-questio
to obtain a ray of hope beyond the very fe
out by this infrequent casualty; and I
frain from expressing the bitterness of m
ment, with an emphasis which convinced
maun hearers that I was sincere.

Hours passed away, and other subje
ceeded to this most interesting one,
evening closed in, I remarked that —
eldest son of the house, was carrying on
getic *sotto voce* conversation with his ven
and I was not a little astonished when
informed me, in his imperfect French, t

nature, would refuse to encounter danger
tand beneath the dome of St. Sophia?
ll, what wandering Giaour could resist
n of entering a mosque during Bay-

the questions that I asked myself as the
owed himself so gallantly to the venture-
y case, not without its dangers), in order
me the disappointment which I dreaded.
nderstood that the attempt must be made
dress; but this fact was of trifling im-
no costume in the world lends itself more
ore conveniently to the purposes of di-
having deliberately weighed the chances
st detection, I resolved to run the risk;
gly I stained my eyebrows with some of
non in the harem; concealed my female
n a magnificent pelisse, lined with sable,
d from my chin to my feet; pulled a fez
brow; and, preceded by a servant with a
ded by the Bey, and followed by the
pipe-bearer, at half-past ten o'clock I

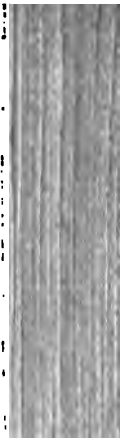
Achmet; and as this is a high festival, adventure, you will have done what no I yet dared to do; but I forewarn you th be discovered, and fail to make your instant, you will be torn to pieces."

This assertion somewhat staggered n instant my woman-spirit quailed; I con however, with briefly replying: "Whe Sophia, we will talk of this," and con beside him in silence. At length we en cious court of the mosque, and, as the se to withdraw my shoes, the Bey murmu "Be firm, or you are lost!"—and m effort to subdue the feeling of mingled which was rapidly stealing over me, I deeper upon my eyebrows, and obeyed.

On passing the threshold, I found mys peristyle, whose gigantic columns of gr tially sunk in the wall of which they fo floor was covered with fine matting, an lamps, which were suspended in festoons ceiling, shed a broad light on all the s

of every shape and colour were formed
lamps of various hues: the Imperial
pposite to the pulpit, was one blaze of
ts gilded lattices flashed back the bril-
ked like a gigantic meteor.
ew paces within the doorway, I could
he limits of the edifice—I looked for-
to the right hand, and to the left—
take in a given space, covered with
kneeling in regular lines, and at a
bowing their turbaned heads to the
soul and one impulse animated the
ion; while the shrill chanting of the
ough the vast pile, and died away in
aces among the tall dark pillars which

St. Sophia! To me it seemed like
nchantment—the light—the ringing
sterious extent, which baffled the car-
aze—the ten thousand turbaned Mos-
ing with their faces turned towards
ntervals laying their foreheads to the



almost my own identity—when my companion [illegible] the single word "*Gel*—Come"—and, passing [illegible] to another door on the opposite side of the [illegible] instinctively followed him, and once more found [illegible] in the court.

What a long breath I drew, as the cold air [illegible] across my forehead! I felt like one who has [illegible] stepped beyond the circle of an enchanter, and [illegible] solved the spell of some mighty magic.

"Whither shall we now bend our way?" [illegible] companion, as we resumed our shoes.

"To Sultan Achmet,"—I answered briefly. I [illegible] not have bestowed many words on my best friend [illegible] moment; the very effort at speech was painful.

In ten minutes more we stood before the [illegible] Sultan Achmet, and, ascending the noble flight [illegible] which lead to the principal entrance, we again [illegible] our shoes, and entered the temple.

Infinitely less vast than St. Sophia, this mosque [illegible] pressed me with a feeling of awe, much greater [illegible] that which I had experienced in visiting its more [illegible] neighbour—four colossal pillars of marble, five [illegible] feet in circumference, support the dome, and [illegible] were wreathed with lamps, even to the summit; [illegible] the number of lights suspended from the ceiling [illegible] the whole edifice the appearance of a space ow [illegible] with stars. We entered at a propitious moment [illegible] the faithful were performing their prostrations, a [illegible] consequently no time to speculate on our appo [illegible] the chanting was wilder and shriller than the [illegible] I had just heard at St. Sophia; it sounded [illegible] in fact, more like the delirious outcry, which [illegible] suppose to have been uttered by a band of [illegible] Priestesses, than the voices of a choir of unins [illegible] man beings.

We passed onward over the yielding carp [illegible] returned no sound beneath our footsteps.

s something strangely supernatural in the spectacle several human beings moving along, without creating a single echo in the vast space they traversed. We ssed an instant beside the marble-arched platform, which the muezzin was performing his prostrations the shrill cry of the choir;—we lingered another, take a last look at the kneeling thousands who re absorbed in their devotions; and then rapidly scending into the court, my companion uttered hasty congratulation on the successful issue of our d adventure, to which I responded a most heart- " Amen"—and in less than an hour, I cast off my and my pelisse in the harem of ——— Effendi, and claimed to its astonished inmates:—"I have seen the osques!"

Knowing what I now know of the Turks, I would not n the same risk a second time, though the Prophet's ard were to be my recompense. There are some circumstances in which ignorance of the extent of the nger is its best antidote.

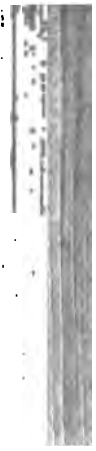
But the feeling that remained on my mind was vague en to pain; I had seen St. Sophia, it is true, and en it in all the glory of its million lamps; I had beld it at a moment when no Christian eye had ever retofore looked on it; and when detection would ve involved instant destruction. I had lifted aside e veil from the Holy of Holies—witnessed the prosation which followed the thrilling cry of "Allah Il llah!"—and polluted, with the breath of a Giaour, e atmosphere of the True Believers—I had looked pon the Chèïk-Islam, as he stood with his face turned ecca-ward, his pale brow cinctured with gold, and s stately figure draped in white cachemire—and I d stood erect when every head was bowed, and every nee bent at the name of the Prophet; but still I had definite idea of the *mosque of St. Sophia*; on the

darkness beyond; and it was not unti
wards that it was satisfied, when the
Bathiany, an Hungarian nobleman,
Princess Metternich, gave an opportu
rious of indulging their lion-hunting pa

The party assembled at half-past ten
at one of the gates of the city, near th
known by the name of "The Gate o
There were horsemen and pedestrians—
and on foot—spruce *attachés*, grave eld
anxious antiquaries, officers of the na
foreign nobles, native servants, and a
sailors and attendants, carrying the s
several masters.

But if the eye were confused by
objects by which it was attracted as o
procession-like, through the narrow st
comments and not unfrequently the
Turks, who bear but impatiently thi
fanation of their temples; the ear was
so by the confusion of languages whi
all sides; here, two Russians almost st

nicker, as I once more traversed the flag-
d passed the elegant fountain, at which
perform their ablutions; with its project-
roof, its marble basin, and its covering of
work, to protect the spring from the pol-
birds.
rance of the peristyle to which I have be-
we put on the slippers we had provided,
as we had all passed, the doors were



ent was the aspect of every object around
which it wore on my last visit! Then,
ent with light; and now, a sacred gloom
ie dark walls, and floated like a veil about
Few were they who did not pass on in
here is a power and a sublimity in scenes
I am attempting to describe, which over-
ile even the most vulgar minds; while to
le and contemplative the spell is deepened
old.
rather of sound than speech, the wordless
pressible admiration, heralded our passage

lin fingers, was already taking notes, with his li
ed book resting against the boots that he carried in
land; and a couple of antiquaries were just commenc
a dispute *sotto voce* relatively to some pillars of Eg
tian granite on the left hand side of the temple.

Nor were the Imams idle; for they had insta
detected the unhandsome intrusion of one trave
with his boots on; an insult so great, that no Mos
can tolerate it; and they were busily employed in e
pelling their removal: accompanying the ceremo
with certain epithets addressed to the Giaour, w
which, if he were unfortunate enough to underst
them, he had no opportunity of feeling flattered.

Our party were not, however, the only tenants of
vast pile. A group of Ulemas were engaged in pr
as we entered, nor did they suffer our presence to
terfere with their devotions; and almost in the ce
of the floor knelt a party of women similarly engag
while a couple of children, who had accompanied t
were chasing each other over the rich carpets.

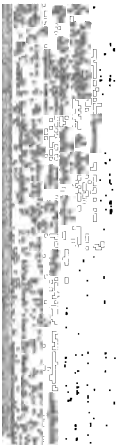
An erroneous impression has obtained in E
that females do not attend, or rather, I should
haps say, are not permitted to enter, the mo
this, as I have just shown, is by no means the ca
entrance is forbidden to them only during the m
prayer. And, in like manner, I had been ta
believe, before I visited the country, that the T
nied to their women the possession of souls:
false a position as the other. It is true that t
Moslem claims a paradise apart; where Ho
wreathe his brow with everblooming flower
sherbet in streams of perfume into its crysta
fill his chibouque with fragrance.* But,

* I am aware that I may here be taxed with an
and reminded that in the days of Mahomet the
was altogether unknown in Turkey; but I, neverth
my position, being perfectly convinced that the

)tuous dreams, he does not quite overlook the
al interests of his mere earthly partner; I do not
e that her future enjoyments are as clearly de-
as those which he arrogates to himself; there is
le harem-like mystery flung over the destiny that
s her; but, meanwhile, he does not altogether shut
ut from the promise of a hereafter, from which he
elf anticipates so full a portion of felicity.
e Turkish women are intuitively pious; the ex-
s of religion are admirably suited to their style of
nce. In the seclusion of the harem the hour of
r is an epoch of unwearying interest to the whole
inhabitants; and there is something touching and
iful in the humility with which, when they have
d their prayer-carpets, they veil themselves with a
of white muslin, ere they intrude into the imme-
presence of their Maker.
ing aware of all this, the appearance of females in
nosque of St. Sophia did not produce the same
upon me as upon many of the party. Those who
lately from Europe could scarcely believe their
and when, in reply to the remark of a person
stood near me, expressing his astonishment at such
pparition, I explained to him that the presence of
les in the different mosques was of constant and
ly occurrence, he looked so exceedingly annoyed
e sweeping away of his ancient prejudices, that I
y believe he thought the deficiency of the whole
le empire of Turkey must be transferred to my
little person, and that I, at least, could have no

pon the whole, the first view of St. Sophia disap-
ted me; I had carried away an idea of much
ter extent; spacious as it was, I could now see

eckon in vain to a paradise of *which the* chibouque did
rm a feature.



Ignorant as I am also of architectur
have a sufficient perception of the be
symmetrical, to make me lament t
medley of different orders and materi
was surrounded. What gigantic pill
dome! What individual treasures are
ther! But with what recklessness
into juxtaposition! Columns of var
proportions; some of Egyptian granite
phyry, others again of scagliola, and
marbles, are scattered, like the frag
distinct buildings, throughout the wh
edifice. The eye is bewildered, and th
unsatisfied.

Eight of the porphyry pillars are reli
of Heliopolis; while those of *verd-a*
that of Ephesus. The walls are line
jasper, porphyry, and verd-antique, to
gallery which surrounds the temple;
the base of the building, is floored wit
and supported by plain columns of the
But the dome which was formerly

his finger, in order to convince himself of
of the marble. This column is called by
ne Sweating Stone;" but if the indigna-
nimate matter at the transformation of
nple into a Mahommedan mosque have
it to a state of perpetual and palpable
am under the necessity of confessing
cle was not wrought for me; for, on
ial, I was conscious only of an extreme

ascended by a very dilapidated and
al stair to the gallery, devoted originally
ne women, and capacious enough to con-
ndreds; and here the mosaic merchants
hands into their breasts, and from amid
eir garments drew forth some thousands
id coloured stones which they had torn
: elaborately-ornamented dome.
oon disposed of, and then we were per-
template at our ease the marvels of the
with its vast unencumbered space, its

of the days of paganism, congregated beneath

The view from this gallery, at the upper extremity the mosque, is extremely imposing; from that point you take in, and feel, all the extent of the edifice, whose effect is rendered the more striking, from the fact that it is entirely laid bare beneath you, being totally free from the divisions and subdivisions which in Catholic chapels are necessary for the location of the different shrines. Plain and unornamented, save by the casing of marble to which I have already alluded, the walls tower upward in severe beauty until they reach the base of the stately dome, which is poized, as if by some mighty magic, on the capitals of a circle of gigantic and rudely fashioned pillars; immediately beneath you are the columns that support the gallery in which you stand, throughout the whole extent of the temple, while on your left hand the marble pulpit, with flight of noble steps, shut in by a finely sculptured door of the same material, and on your right the imperial closet, with its gilded lattices, complete the circle of the picture.

The two huge waxen candles occupying the of the arched recess, or *mihrab*, at the eastern the building, are lighted every night, and last twelve months; they are the very Gog and M wax-chandlery, and must be at least eighteen in circumference.

In making the tour of the gallery, we can door that had been stopped with masonry; into which it had originally fitted is of whi and remains quite perfect. There are traces on the brick-work, which appears to have b by some powerful cement that has indurate until it has acquired the solidity of sto become capable of resisting any ordinary

neans have as yet failed to weaken; but that
cts to an apartment in which a Greek Bishop
; before a reading-desk, perusing an open
of so holy a nature that no Moslem eye must
upon it. Nor does the tradition end here,
the Turks and Greeks have a firm faith in
hecies which have been made, that St. Sophia
day revert to the Christians, on which occa-
walled-up Bishop will emerge from his con-
, and chant a solemn high mass at the great

tter portion of the legend would imply that the
ion is of remote origin. I felt glad of this—
stic imaginings require to be enveloped in the
enturies, in order to elevate the ridiculous into
me, and to attract our fancy without revolting
m.
the gallery we passed out upon the leads which
e inferior cupolas of the building, and screen
solemns of the Sultans and other distinguished
es, whose ashes repose within the holy pre-
St. Sophia: and, after traversing a number of

sophia, there were only seven who p
enough to make the tour of the dome.
lady and gallant knight leaned for an i
slender fence, and looked down into t
building while clinging firmly to the r
men reduced to the dimensions of pig
carpets dwindled to the proportions of
kerchiefs; but a brief survey contented
drew back from the dizzy spectacle, w
heads and aching eyes.

Seven individuals only, as I have alre
detached themselves from the throng, of
I was one; and I understood at once th
line of light that had struck me so forcib
of my first visit, when I remarked the c
which were still attached to the lower
gallery; while I wondered no longer
effect they had produced, as I perceive
height at which they been placed.

The path we had to follow was about
and the slight railing that protected it
iron bars to the wall beyond; but in

ann me, a couple of doves winged their
across the body of the mosque, to their
on the opposite side of the building.
are held sacred by the Musselmauns,
out all their public edifices, and mul-
raordinary extent; and their appear-
ment when my fancy was awakened,
excited, by the objects of beauty and
at surrounded me, produced an effect
to give birth to a very different train
hose in which I had previously been

he gallery completed our survey of the
'ophia; and, flinging off the slippers
rawn over our shoes, we exchanged the
overed with yielding carpets, for the
streets leading to the mosque of Sultan

through the Atmeidan (or Place of
side of which the mosque is situated,
ce was pointed out to me, from whose
Mahmoud caused several of the prin-

ch I had carried away on the same occasion
Sophia.

The mosque of Sultan Achmet is remarkable f
mensity of the four colossal columns that s
e dome, to which I have already alluded; and
ie fact that the decree against the Janissari
nrolled and read by the Chief Priest from its
ulpit. An air of solemn and religious grand
shed over it by the dim twilight that enters th
the windows of clouded glass; and it possesses
gallery, roofed with mosaic and supported by
pillars, which produces a very pleasing effect
beyond this, there is little to attract in its det
indeed, I except the curious and valuable collec
antique vases, many of them richly inlaid with m
of-pearl and various coloured stones (and all of
as the Imam assured us, authentic), which are sus
from the transverse bars of iron that support the
intermixed with ostrich eggs, bunches of corn
ear, and similar symbols of abundance.

The inner court of the mosque is truly
ing surrounded by an open cloister, supp
graceful columns in the Arabian taste, whos
resemble clusters of stalactites, and whose slen
shoot upwards almost with the lightness of
In the centre of the court, a stately four
forth its sparkling waters; and on the left h
enter is situated the marble balcony from
read all the Imperial Firmans that posses
rest. Near the gate of entrance, stands
block of porphyry of singular beauty, rest
masses of stone; on which the dead are
vious to their interment; no corpse being
defile the interior of the mosque, and the
lves having the funeral prayers read o
open air.

The mosque of Sultan Achmet is the

hat has six minarets. This peculiarity arose from
lesire of the Sultan to be the first monarch who
d build a mosque in his capital, rivalling that of
a in the number of its minarets; but, as this
not be done without permission of the Mufti,
liance with the Imperial request was delayed,
steps had been taken to increase those at Mecca
ven, as it was not deemed expedient for any other
ue to enjoy the same privileges as that which is
ified by the presence of the Prophet's Tomb.
ese minarets are arranged with the most beautiful
; two of them are attached to the main body of
uilding, while the four others pierce through the
foliage of the stately forest-trees which encircle
nosque, with an irregularity singularly graceful.
transparent galleries of perforated masonry (three
mber) girdle the slender shafts with the lightness
delicacy of net-work, and their pointed spires,
ed with gold, gleam out like stars through the
blue of the surrounding horizon.

om the mosque of Sultan Achmet we proceeded
at of Solimanie, built by Solyman the Magni-
t, which is considered to be the most elegant edi-
in Stamboul. Its interior is eminently cheerful
attractive; and the splendid windows of stained
are the spoils of its founder, who, subsequently
victory obtained over the Persians, bore them
in triumph to enrich the present building, which
then in a state of progression. The four pillars
support the dome are slight and well proportioned;
he four porphyry columns which form the angles
e temple are the boast of the edifice; they origi-
served as pedestals to as many antique statues,
are of surpassing symmetry. St. Sophia, amid
he remains which are collected beneath its roof,
esses nothing *so fine; and, independently of these,*
is a greater attempt at architectural elaboration

throughout the whole building, than in either mosques that we had previously visited.

The pulpit is very peculiar, being shaped so like the blossom of the arum, which it the more bles from the fact that the marble whereof it is is of the most snowy whiteness; while the gre of the main entrance are richly inlaid with de mother-of-pearl.

Attached to the wall, near the platform of ezzin, hangs a long scroll of parchment, on wl traced, in black and gold, the ground-plans of principal mosques in the world—viz. those o Medina, Jerusalem, St. Sophia, and Adrianc is evidently of great antiquity, and was preci description of relic which an antiquary wou valued; while even to the scientific it was an c considerable interest.

There is one peculiarity in the mosque of So which it were an injustice to the Turkish gov to pass over in silence; and which is in itself esting, that I am surprised no traveller has y it matter of record.

An open gallery, extending along the whol northern side of the edifice, is filled with c various sizes and descriptions, piled one on th and carefully marked; these chests contain principally in gold, silver, and jewels, to a vast and all are the property of individuals, whc event of their leaving the country, of family derstandings, or from other causes, require a safety in which to deposit their wealth. Each being accurately described, and scrupulously is received and registered at Solimanié by th authorities, and there it remains intact and i *despite national* convulsions and ministerial

No event, however unexpected, or however *dinary, is* suffered to affect the sacredness of

consideration of country, or of religion, mili-
rainst the admission of such deposits as may be
d, by persons anxious to secure their property
t casualties.

A one side may be seen the fortune of an orphan
nfided to the keeping of the Directors of the Institu-
on during his minority; on the other, the capital of
a merchant who is pursuing his traffic over the seas.
All classes and all creeds avail themselves of the secu-
rity of the depository; and, although an individual
may fail to reclaim his property for twenty, fifty, or
even an unlimited number of years, no seal is ever
broken, no lock is ever forced. And despite that this
great National Bank, for as such it may truly be con-
sidered, offers not only an easy, but an efficient and
abundant, mean of supply, no instance has ever been
known in which government has made an effort to avail
itself of the treasures of Solimanië. As the property is
deposited, so is it withdrawn; the proper documents
are produced, and the chest or desk is delivered up
without the demand of a piastre from those who have
acted as its guardians.

The despotism of the Turkish government cannot, in
this instance, be subject of complaint; when, amid all
its reverses, and all its necessities, it has ever respected
the property thus trustingly confided; while it can
scarcely be denied that the admirable integrity, which
is the great safeguard of the heaped-up wealth within
the walls of the mosque, is at least as worthy of com-
mendation, as the generous liberality which has forborne
to levy a tax upon so valuable a privilege.

From the mosque we passed out by a charming co-
vered walk to the mausoleum of the Magnificent Soly-
man; an elegant cupolaed building, with a fluted roof
projecting about two *feet forward*, cased with marble
on the *outside, and finely painted* within in delicate

and along the centre are ranged the sar
lyman the Magnificent and his succe
Achmet, and of the two daughters c
founder of the mosque. Those of t
adorned with lofty turbans of white mu
with aigrettes, and attached to the sarc
shawls; the tombs of the Princesses are
with cachemire of a dark green colou
siderably injured by time.

An admirable model of the mosque
pied a stand on the right of the entra
object of general curiosity; it was wel
gave an excellent idea, not only of the
but of the approaches to it. The Tomb
occupied the centre of the plan; and t
covered with pilgrims, with its mount
halting-places, enabled the spectator t
rate judgment of the locality.

In all the mausoleums of this descri
abound in Constantinople), a priest ca
the huge wax candles which are placc

ied to the service of each mosque; St. Sophia
, as I have been credibly informed, affording oc-
ion to more than three hundred persons.
ree accessories are indispensable to a mosque—a
, a fountain, and a minaret; the clock determines
our of prayer, the fountain enables the Faithful
rform their ablutions, and the minaret supplies
allery whence the muezzin warns the pious to the
le of Allah.
t, independently of these, every Imperial mosque
sses also its *Medresch*, or College, where the
tas are instructed at the expense of the establish-
; and its *Imaret*, or receiving-house for pilgrims,
e wayfaring strangers are lodged and fed, and the
are relieved at a certain hour each day, when a dis-
tion of food takes place to all who think proper to
t it. In the event of a *Kourban*, or sacrifice, it is
ie *Imaret* that the animal is put to death, and
d among the needy who throng its entrance to be-
by the pious offering.
ie mosque of Sultan Mahmoud at Topp-hannè is
ly enhanced in beauty by the splendid fountain
clock-house which he has built on either side of the
ance; and whose gilded lattice-work, and paintings
abesque, are truly oriental in their taste; this small
elegant mosque is also remarkable for the gilt spires
minarets, and the stately flight of marble steps by
h it is approached.
ie ruins of a mosque still remain in Constantinople,
h was overthrown by an earthquake, wherein the
of the Sultan by whom it was built was covered
a slab of red marble, said to have been the iden-
stone on which our Saviour was stretched on his
ent from the cross, embalmed, and prepared for the
lchre.
ll the principal *mosques are surrounded*, and par

tially overshadowed, by ancient and stately trees, which, in many cases, appear to be coeval with the edifice, and through whose leafy screen portions of the white building gleam out in strong relief; and these are dominated in their turn by the arrowy minarets, which, springing from a dense mass of foliage, heighten the beauty of the picture.

I have seldom spent a morning of more absorbing interest than that which I passed among the Mosques of Constantinople.

CHAPTER V.

of Constantinople—Ismäel Effendi—The Atmeidan elisk—The Delphic Tripod—The Column of Con- The Tchernberlè Tasch—The Cistern of the Thou- One Columns — The Roudroum—The Roman Dun- rè-Batan-Serai—The Lost Traveller—Extent of the queduct of Justinian—Palace of Constantine—Tomb us—The Seven Towers—An Ambassador in Search Tortures of the Prison—A Legend of the Seven

uities of Constantinople are few in number; the by-past fortunes of Byzantium are taken eration, not remarkably interesting. I shall ly say little upon the subject, and the rather competent writers than myself have already them; and that these reliques of departed re not calculated to be treated a *tutto volo di* rt, as it is impossible to pass them over al- silence, I shall merely endeavour to describe e and the effect which they produced upon

the most curious remain of by-gone days ng, and certainly that which is the least *Yèrè-Batan-Serai*, literally the "Swallowed- " anciently called *Philoxmos*. I had heard his extraordinary old Roman work, but we edly failed in our attempts to visit it, from the opening into the court of a Turkish house, ier was not always willing to submit to the of strangers.

e not, however, *fated to leave* Constantinople

without effecting our purpose; which we ultimately accomplished through the medium of one of the Sultan's physicians, who provided us with such attendance as insured our success. Ismäel Effendi, Surgeon-in-chief of the Anatomical School attached to the Seraï Bournou, volunteered to become our escort, and we gladly availed ourselves of his kindness. He was a fine, vivacious, intelligent young man, endowed with an energy and mobility perfectly Greek, combined with that gentle and quiet courtesy so essentially Turkish: and we were, furthermore, accompanied by one of his friends, who spoke the French language with tolerable fluency; and a soldier of the Palace Guard, to prevent our collision with the passers-by; a precaution which the rapid and virulent spread of the Plague had rendered essentially necessary.

We first directed our steps to the Atmeidan, or Place of Horses, the ancient race-course of the Romans; in which stands a handsome Egyptian obelisk of red granite, placed there by Theodosius, and resting upon a pedestal of white marble, whereon are coarsely represented his victories in very ill-executed *alto relievo*. The obelisk is sixty feet in height, and elaborately ornamented with hieroglyphics.

Near it are the remains of the Delphic Tripod; the brazen heads of the serpents are wanting; and it is asserted that one of them was struck off by Sultan Achmet at a single blow of his scimitar.

The Turks are extremely jealous of this interesting remain, as they have a tradition that, when it is entirely destroyed or displaced, Constantinople will fall more into the hands and under the power of the Christians; and so universal is this superstition, that a very little girl of about eight years of age, who saw us examining it, approached us, and said earnestly, "You may look, but you cannot buy this with all your gold, for *it is our* talisman, and you are Franks and Infidels."

About one hundred paces beyond the Tripod, the lofty monument of Constantine, denuded of the coating of metal by which its coarse masonry is said to have been once concealed, rears its head ninety feet from the earth; and appears, from its immense height and small circumference, superadded to the apparently careless and insecure manner in which the stones are put together, to stand erect only by a miracle.

But far more curious than either of these is the *Tchernberlè Tasch*, or Burnt Pillar, situated at a short distance from the Tower of the Seraskier. It was originally brought by Constantine from the Temple of Apollo, at Rome, and was placed upon a hexagonal pedestal, within which were built up several portions of the Holy Cross; whence the small square in which it stood became a place of prayer. When first transported to Constantinople, it was surmounted by a statue of the god, from the chisel of Phidias, of which the head was surrounded by a halo. But the conqueror appropriated the figure, and caused to be inscribed beneath it, "The Justice of the Sun to the Illustrious Constantine."

The destruction of the statue is diversely explained by different writers. Genaro Esquilichi declares it to have been destroyed by a thunderbolt; Anna de Comnena asserts that it was overthrown by a strong southerly wind during the reign of Alexius de Comnena, and that it killed several persons in its fall; while other authors mention that it was merely mutilated by the first accident, and utterly ruined by the second. The pedestal bears an inscription now nearly obliterated, which may be thus rendered from the original Greek:

"O Christ, Master and Protector of the world,
I dedicate to Thee *this City*, subject to thee;
And *the Sceptre, and the Empire* of Rome.
Guard the City, and protect it from all evil."

The pillar is ninety feet in height, measures thirty feet at its base; it verely from fire as well as from thi wire-work has been carefully erected vent its falling to pieces, as it is ra every direction. It is to be deplor teresting relic is built in on all sid houses.

From the *Tcherukerli Tasch* we p a cistern called by the Turks *Bin-Ve* "Thousand and One," in allusion t columns that support it. It is an ranean, of which the roof is in reali three hundred and thirty-six pillars each formed of two or more blocks.

These pillars are now buried to o height in the earth, the water-cours turned, and the cistern dried up, for receiving the rubbish which was flun foundations of St. Sophia were laid. silk-winders, who have become so ac sight of visitors that they scarcely suffe the first flight of steps before they all c and begin shouting for *backschish*. T in the stone by the passage of the flowed into the cistern is distinguisha ferent sides of the subterranean, which grated windows level with the roof; prolonged and flung back by the vault a sound so hollow and supernatural t like the distant mutterings of fiends.

As we were about to quit *Bin-Ve* the silk-spinners informed us that th *smaller Boudroum*, or subterrannean, i *hood, to* which he offered to conduct u *mitting*, at the same time, that the *we should* breathe there was so unw

ntured to indulge their curiosity by a descent.
e accordingly went, and the less reluctantly
ertained by the way that this also had been
into a spinning establishment, where fifty or
ons were constantly employed.
t walk over the rubbish of an ancient fire
us to the narrow door of this second subter-
and we had not descended a dozen steps, ere
perfectly convinced of the accuracy of the
on given to us by the guide. Each felt as
wet garment had suddenly been wound about
l the appearance of the miserable beings who
ning the cotton wheels sufficiently demon-
e unhealthiness of the atmosphere; they were
y white, and looked like a society of resus-
orses. We had heard a confusion of voices
moment that we approached the neighbour-
Biu-Vebir-Direg, but all was silence within
lroum where we now found ourselves; while
ded curiosity and astonishment with which
was turned upon us was a convincing proof
unfortunates by whom it was tenanted were
d to the sight of strangers.
liately that we had descended into the vault,
ultaneously desired us to keep in continual
uring our stay, alleging that the exercise con-
on their occupation was their only preservative
estruction; and confirming the truth of their
t by the melancholy tale of a man who had
ew weeks previously to visit one of their com-
d who remained quietly smoking upon his
several hours, after which he was seized with
, and died.
lower orders of Orientals universally believe
ank to be, if not actually a physician by pro-
t least *perfectly conversant* with the "healing
roup of the pallid wretches by whom we were

surrounded immediately began to apply to my father for advice and assistance; when the good-natured Ismäel Effendi volunteered to prescribe for them, and listened with the greatest patience to a list of ailments, engendered by the fetid atmosphere, and quite beyond the reach of medicine.

This cistern, although of considerably less extent than *Bin-Vebir-Direg*, being supported only by one and thirty pillars, is nevertheless infinitely handsomer, as the columns are at least thrice the circumference of the "Thousand and one," and uncovered to their base; two only are imperfect; and the *coup-d'œil* from midway of the stone stair is most imposing.

On emerging from this dim and vapour-freighted vault, we inquired of the guide, whom we had retained, whether he could direct us to any other object of interest in that quarter of the city; when, after some hesitation, allured by the promise held out to him of a liberal *backschish*, he at length admitted that there was a *Boudroum* about half a mile from thence, which was but little known, and into which no Frank had ever been admitted. Then followed a host of assurances of the danger that he incurred by pointing it out to us, and of which we readily understood the motive; and, after receiving a second promise of reward, he ultimately led the way through one or two narrow streets; when passing under a large doorway, we found ourselves in a dilapidated Khan, where a dozen old men were seated on low stools, winding silk. Here our conductor procured lights, after which he preceded us down a flight of steps, terminating in a second door, whence a short stair descended into an extensive vault, supported by eight double arches of solid masonry, as perfect as though they had only been completed on the previous day.

Traversing this vault, we entered a second, perfectly

ch the outer wall was strengthened by
illars. At the extreme end of this inner
, we found a flight of ruined stone steps,
cended with some difficulty, and on arriving
mit of the stair, discovered that we were
a dilapidated Roman dungeon.
is point several other cells branched off in
irections. The entrance of one, which ap-
be a *cachot forcé*, was so blocked by the
stone that had fallen from the roof, that we
le to penetrate into it; but on the other side
into a range of dungeons, of which the par-
lls, at least a foot in thickness, had been torn
The iron rings by which the prisoners had been
still remained, as did also the sleeping places
d in the masonry; but the most curious and
l feature of the locality was a watercourse,
passing along the entire line of cells, emptied
ito a small dungeon, situated under the arched
hat I have already described, and thus offered
mean of destruction to the oppressor, and a
l and hopeless death to the captive.
sincerely glad to leave this gloomy remain of
power, and to breathe once more the pure air
en, on my way to *Yèrè-Batan Seraï*, where we
after a long and very fatiguing walk. After a
sitation, the door of the Turkish house to which
lsewhere alluded was opened to us, and passing
the great entrance hall, we traversed the court-
nd descending a steep slope of slippery earth,
urselves at the opening of the dim mysterious
of Waters.
roof of this immense cistern, of which the
is unknown, is supported, like that of *Bin-
Direg*, by marble columns, distant about ten
m each other, but *each formed* from a single
the *capitals are elaborately* wrought, and in

one instance the entire pillar is covered with sculptured ornaments.

At the period of our visit, Constantinople had been long suffering from drought, and the water in the cistern was consequently much lower than usual, a circumstance that greatly tended to augment the stateliness of its effect. There was formerly a boat upon it, but it has been destroyed in consequence of the numerous accidents to which it gave rise.

The Kiâra of the Effendi who owned the house had accompanied us to the vault; and he mentioned two adventures connected with it that had taken place within his own knowledge, and which he related to us as having both occurred to Englishmen.

The first and the saddest was the tale of a young traveller, who about six years ago arrived at Constantinople, and, in his tour of the capital, obtained permission to see the *Yèrè-Batan Seraï*. The boat was then upon the water; and, not satisfied with gazing on the wonders of the place from land, he sprang into the little skiff, and, accompanied by the boatman who was accustomed to row the family in the immediate vicinity of the opening, he pushed off, after having received a warning not to be guilty of the imprudence of advancing so far into the interior as to lose sight of the light of day. This warning he was unhappy enough to disregard. Those who stood watching his progress remarked that he had provided himself with a lamp, and they again shouted to him to beware; but the wretched man was bent upon his purpose; and having, as it is supposed, induced the boatman, by the promise of a heavy reward, to comply with his wish, the flame of the lamp became rapidly fainter and fainter, and at length disappeared altogether from the sight of those *who* were left behind; and who remained at their *station* anxiously awaiting its return.

But they lingered in vain—they had looked their

t upon the unfortunates who had so lately parted
m them in the full rush of life and hope—the boat
ne no more—and it is presumed that those within it,
ving bewildered themselves among the columns, be-
ne unable to retrace their way, and perished miser-
y by famine.
I should have mentioned that the spot on which we
od was not the proper entrance to the cistern, of
ose existence and situation they are even now ig-
rant, but an opening formed by the failure of several
the pillars, by which accident the roof fell in, and
closed the water-vault beneath.
Another similar but less extensive failure of the ex-
ordinary fabric in a yard near the Sublime Porte
rayed its extent in that direction; a third took
ace in the immediate neighbourhood of St. Sophia;
d a fourth within the walls of the Record Office;
is affording an assurance that the cistern extended
several leagues beneath the city. Further than this,
: Constantinopolitan authorities cannot throw any
ht on its dimensions; and, as far as I was indi-
lually concerned, I am not quite sure that this fact
l not increase the interest of the locality—the myste-
us distance into which man is forbidden to pene-
te—the long lines of columns deepening in tint, and
ninishing in their proportions as they recede—the
per twilight that softens every object—and the dreamy
lness that lords it over this singular Water Palace,
ich the voice of man can awaken for a brief space
o long-drawn and unearthly echoes, that sweep on-
rd into the darkness, and, ere they are quite lost to
: ear, appear to shape themselves into words: all
nbined to invest the spot with an awful and thrilling
aracter, which, to an imaginative mind, were assuredly
ore than an equivalent for the privilege of determining
limits.

The second local anecdote related to us by the Kiära was that of an Englishman, who, only a few months previous to our visit, had requested permission to make use of the little boat that had replaced the one in which the traveller, to whom I have already alluded, had been lost. Many objections were started; and the fate of his unfortunate countryman was insisted upon as the reason of the refusal; but, on his repeated promises of prudence, the old Effendi at length consented to his wish; and having lighted a couple of torches, and affixed them to the stern of the boat, the traveller drew out a large quantity of strong twine, which he made fast to one of the pillars, leaving the ball to unwind itself as he proceeded.

As no one could be found who was willing to accompany him, he started alone; and hour after hour went by without sign of his return; until, as the fourth hour was on the eve of completion, the flame of the torches lit up the distance, and was reflected back by the gleaming columns. The wanderer sprang from the boat chilled and exhausted; and, in answer to the inquiries of those about him, he stated that he had progressed for two hours in a straight line, but that he had seen nothing more than what they looked upon themselves, the vaulted roof above his head, the water beneath his feet, and a wilderness of pillars rising on all sides, and losing themselves in the darkness.

This second adventure so alarmed the worthy old Osmanli to whom the boat belonged, that he caused it to be immediately destroyed; and visitors are now compelled to content themselves with a partial view of *Yerè-Batan Seraï* from the ruined opening.

Marcian's Column, called by the Turks ***Kestachi***, which is situated in the garden of a Turkish house near the gate of Adrianople, is a splendid remain, of which *the capit*al is supported by four magnificent eagles.

The hexagonal pedestal is ornamented with wreaths of oak-leaves, and the height of the shaft is nearly eighty feet.

Of the remains of the Aqueduct of Justinian I have already spoken; and hundreds of beautiful and graceful columns, and thousands of sculptured fragments, are to be seen intermingled with the masonry of the city walls.

The ancient Palace of Constantine, vulgarly named the Palace of Belisarius, stands in that quarter of the city called Balata, a corruption of *Balati*, "the gate of the palace." It is impossible to visit this curious ruin with any pleasure, as it has been given up to the needy Jews, who have established within its walls a species of pauper barrack, redolent of filth. It is of considerable extent, and principally remarkable for the curious arrangement of its brick-work; there are, however, the remains of a handsome door-way, and outworks of great strength.

About ten days before I left the country, some workmen, employed in digging the foundation of an outbuilding at the Arsenal, brought to light a handsome sarcophagus of red marble, containing the bodies of Heraclius, a Greek Emperor, who flourished during the reign of Mahomet, and his consort. The two figures representing the Imperial pair are nearly perfect. That of the Emperor holds in one hand a globe, and with the other grasps a sceptre; while the Empress is represented with her crown resting upon her open palm. At their feet are the busts of two worthies, supposed to be portraits of celebrated warriors, but the inscriptions beneath them are nearly obliterated.

Immediately that the identity of the occupants of this lordly tomb was ascertained, orders were given that an iron railing, breast-high, should be erected to protect the relic from injury, the *Turks* having a tradition that Heraclius *died a Mahomedan*. The fact is, however,

more than doubtful; although it is well known that Mahomet sent him an invitation to abjure Christianity, and to become a True Believer; but, at the period of this occurrence, Heraclius was bowed by years, and sunk in sensual enjoyments. Anxious to evade a war with Mahomet, whose successes were then at their height, he despatched an ambiguous reply to the message, and died ere he had given the Musselmauns reason to suspect the real motive of his supineness. Hence the Turks claimed the sarcophagus of Heraclius as the tomb of a True Believer; and a marble mausoleum is to be built over it, similar to those which contain the ashes of the Sultans.

The Seven Towers—that celebrated prison of which the very name is a spell of power—are rapidly crumbling to decay, but must continue to be among the most interesting of the antiquities of Constantinople, as long as one stone remains upon another.

Although situated in a populous part of the city, this fortress is, nevertheless, an isolated building; and four of the towers to which it owes its name are destroyed, but of those that still exist, one contains the apartments originally appropriated to state prisoners, and is also the residence of the military commandant and the officers of the garrison. When it ceased to be a state prison for attainted Turks, the fortress of the Seven Towers was exclusively reserved for the reception of the Russian Ambassadors, on the occasion of any misunderstanding between the Ottoman and Muscovite courts; and it is almost a ludicrous fact that, during the reign of Mustapha III., His Excellency Count Obrescoff, representative of Her Imperial Majesty, the Empress of all the Russias, not only suffered an imprisonment of three years in this fortress, but actually passed several days at the bottom of a dry *well, into* which it was the Sublime pleasure of the *Sultan to* cause him to be lowered.

If His Highness acted upon the impression that the Muscovite Minister would succeed during his subterranean sojourn in discovering the moral deity who is said to be concealed therein, there is every reason, from existing circumstances, to believe that the experiment was a failure, or that she declined being withdrawn from her retreat.

Instruments of torture—racks, wheels, and oubliettes—are rife within this place of gloom and horror. One chasm, upon whose brink you stand, is called the "Well of Blood," and is said to have overflowed its margin with the ensanguined stream which was once warm with life—a small court, designated the "Place of Heads," is pointed out as having been cumbered with the slain, until the revolting pile was of sufficient height to enable the spectator to look out from its summit upon the waves of the glittering Propontis; and more than one stone tunnel is shown, into which the wretched captive was condemned to crawl upon his hands and knees, and there left to die of famine.

But I shall pass by these tales of terror, to narrate a Legend of the Seven Towers, less known than the objects which are exhibited to every visitor, and more calculated to interest the reader.

On the declaration of war with Russia made by the Turks in 1786, Baron Bulhakoff, the Russian Minister, despite his representation that the imprisonment of the Muscovite Ambassadors on such occasions had been abolished by treaty, was, nevertheless, sent to the Seven Towers by order of Codza Youssouf Pasha, the Grand Vèsir, with the assurance that treaties were very good things in a time of peace, but mere waste paper in the event of war. The discomfited Ambassador was, however, treated with great civility, and was even permitted to select such members of the Legation as he desired should bear him company during his captivity; strict *orders being given to* the Commandant of the

castle to accede to every request of his prisoner which did not tend to compromise his safety; and upon his complaining of the accommodations of the Tower, he was moreover permitted to erect a kiosque on the walls of the fortress, whence he had a magnificent view of the Sea of Marmora and its glittering islands, and to construct a spacious and handsome apartment within the Tower itself.

I have already stated that the Commandant was lodged beneath the same roof as his prisoner; but I have yet to tell that he had an only daughter, so young, and so lovely, that she might have taken her stand between the two Houri who wait at the portal of Paradise to beckon the Faithful across its threshold, without seeming less beautiful than they. Fifteen springs had with their delicate breathings opened the petals of the roses since the birth of Rèchèdi * Hanoum, and she had far outbloomed the brightest blossoms of the fairest of seasons. Her voice, when it was poured forth in song, came through the lattices of her casement like the tones of a distant mandolin sweeping over the waters of the still sea; when you looked upon her, it was as though you looked upon a rose; and when you listened, you seemed to listen to the nightingale.

Rèchèdi Hanoum had never yet poured the scented sherbet in the garden of flowers. Her young heart was as free as the breeze that came to her brow from the blue bosom of the Propontis; and when she heard that a Muscovite Giaour was about to become an inmate of the Tower, she only trembled, for she knew that he was the enemy of her country.

Terror was, however, soon succeeded by curiosity. Only a few weeks after the compulsatory domestication of the Ambassador at the Seven Towers, his kiosque was *completed*; and from her closed casements the young

* Mignionette.

Hanoum could see all that passed in the vast apartment of the prisoner.

Her first glance at the dreaded Infidel was transient; but soon she took another, and a longer look: and curiosity was, in its turn, succeeded by sympathy. The Russian prisoner was the handsomest man on whom her eye had ever rested, and it was not thus that she had pictured to herself the dreaded Muscovite. He was unhappy, too, for in his solitary moments he paced the floor with hurried and unequal steps, like one who is grappling with some painful memory; and at times sat sadly, with his head pillowed on his hand, and his fingers wreathed amid the wavy hair which encircled his brow; looking so mournful, and above all so fascinating, that the fair Rèchèdi at last began to weep as she clung to her lattice, with her gaze riveted upon him; and to find more happiness in those tears, than in all the simple pleasures which had hitherto formed the charm of her existence.

Little did the young Hanoum suspect that she loved the Giaour. She never dreamt of passion; but, with all the generous anxiety of innocence, unconscious that a warmer feeling than that of mere pity urged her to the effort, she began to muse upon the means of diminishing the irksomeness of a captivity which she was incapable of terminating. The first, the most natural, impulse led her to sweep her hands across the chords of her zebec; and as she remarked the start of agreeable surprise with which the sound was greeted by the courtly prisoner, her young heart bounded with joy, and the wild song gushed forth in a burst of sweetness which chained the attention of the captive, and afforded to the delighted girl the opportunity of a long, long look, that more than repaid her for her minstrelsy.

During the evening she watched to ascertain whether a repetition of her song would be expected, and she did not watch *in vain; for more* than once the Russian

noble leant from his casement, and seemed to listen; but he came not there alone; one of his companions in captivity was beside him; and Rèchèdi Hanoum, although she guessed not wherefore, had suddenly become jealous of her minstrelsy, and would not exhibit it before a third person.

On the morow, an equally graceful, and equally successful effort wiled the prisoner for a time from his sorrows. A cluster of roses, woven together with a tress of bright dark hair, was flung from the casement of the young beauty, at a moment when the back of the stranger was turned towards her. It fell at his feet, and was secured and pressed to his lips, with a respectful courtesy that quickened the pulses of the donor; but not a glimpse of the fair girl accompanied the gift; and it seemed as though the Baron had suspected wherefore, for ere long he was alone in his apartment; and, when he had dismissed his attendants, he once more advanced to the window, and glanced anxiously towards the jealous lattices by which it was overlooked.

There was a slight motion perceptible behind the screen; a white hand waved a greeting; and the imprisoned noble bent forward to obtain a nearer view of its fair owner. For a moment Rèchèdi Hanoum stood motionless, terrified at the excess of her own temerity; but there was a more powerful feeling at her heart than fear; and in the next, she forced away her prison-bars for an instant; and, with the tell-tale hand pressed upon her bosom, stood revealed to her enraptured neighbour.

From that day the young beauty allowed herself to betray to the captive her interest in his sorrows; she did more; she admitted that she shared them; and ere long there was not an hour throughout the day in *which the thoughts* of Rèchèdi Hanoum were not *dwelling on the* handsome prisoner.

Thus were things situated during two long years, when the death of the reigning Sultan, at the termination of that period, induced the Ambassadors of England and France to demand from his successor, Selim III., the liberty of the Russian Minister. The request was refused, for the war was not yet terminated; and the new sovereign required no better pretext for disregarding the representations of the European Ambassadors, than the continuation of hostilities between the two countries. But Selim had other and more secret reasons for thus peremptorily negativing their prayer; and it will be seen in the suite that they did not arise from personal dislike to the captive Muscovite.

Like Haroun Alraschid of Arabian memory, the new Sultan, during the first weeks of his reign, amused himself by nocturnal wanderings about the streets of the city in disguise; attended by the subsequently famous Hussèin, his first and favourite body-page; and immediately that he had refused compliance with the demand of the Ambassadors, he resolved on paying an *incognito* visit to his prisoner at the Seven Towers. As soon as twilight had fallen like a mantle over the gilded glories of Stamboul, he accordingly set forth; and having discovered himself to the Commandant, and enjoined him to secresy, he entered the anti-chamber of the Baron, where he found one of his suite, to whom he expressed his desire to have an interview with the captive Ambassador.

The individual whom the Sultan addressed recognised him at once; but, without betraying that he did so, contented himself with expressing his regret that he was unable to comply with the request of his visitor, the orders of the Sultan being peremptory, that the Baron should hold no intercourse with any one beyond the walls of the fortress.

On receiving this answer, Selim replied gaily that the *Sultan need never be informed* of the circumstance;

and that, being a near relation of the Commandant, and having obtained his permission to have a few minutes' conversation with the prisoner, he trusted that he should not encounter any obstacle either on the part of the Baron himself, or on that of his friends.

The Dragoman, with affected reluctance, quitted the room to ascertain, as he asserted, the determination of His Excellency, but in reality to inform him of the Imperial masquerade; and in five minutes more the disguised Sultan and his favourite were ushered into the apartment of the Ambassador.

After some inconsequent conversation, Selim inquired how the Baron had contrived to divert the weary hours of his captivity; and was answered that he had endeavoured to lighten them by books, and by gazing out upon the Sea of Marmora from his kiosque. Bulhakoff sighed as he made the reply, and remembered how much more they had been brightened by the affection of the fair Rèchèdi Hanoum; and he almost felt as though he were an ingrate that he did not add her smiles and her solicitude to the list of his prison-blessings.

"The same volume and the same kiosque cannot please for ever;" said the Sultan with a smile; "and you would not, doubtlessly, be sorry to exchange your books for the conversation of your fellow-men; nor your view of the blue Propontis for one more novel. A prison is but a prison at the best, even though you may be locked up with all the courtesy in the world. But your captivity is not likely to endure much longer. *Shekiur Allah!*—Praise be to God—I am intimately acquainted with the Sultan's favourite; and I know that, had not the meddling ministers of England and France sought to drive the new sovereign into an act of justice, which he had resolved to perform from in*clination*, you would have been, ere this, at liberty. *Do not, therefore*, be induced to lend yourself or your

countenance to any intrigue that they may make to liberate you, and which will only tend to exasperate His Highness; but wait patiently for another month, and at its expiration you will be set free, and restored to your country."

"I trust that you may prove a true prophet," said the Baron; and his visitor shortly afterwards departed.

The days wore on; the month was almost at an end, and yet the captive noble had never ventured to breathe to the fair girl who loved him the probability of his liberation. He shrank from the task almost with trembling, for he felt that even to him the parting would be a bitter one; even to him, although he was about to recover liberty, and country, and friends. What, then, would it be to her, to "his caged bird," as he had often fondly called her; who knew no joy save in his presence, no liberty save that of loving him! As the twilight fell sadly over the sea, and the tall trees of the prison-garden grew dark and gloomy in the sinking light, he remembered how ardently they had both watched for that still hour, soon to be one of ten-fold bitterness to the forsaken Rèchèdi Hanoum; and there were moments in which he almost wished that she had never loved him.

But the hour of trial came at last. Selim had redeemed his word, and Bulhakoff was free. His companions in captivity would fain have quitted the fortress within the hour; but the liberated prisoner lingered. He gave no reason for his delay; he offered no explanation of his motives; he simply announced his resolution not to quit the Tower until the morrow; and then he shut himself into his chamber, and passed there several of the most bitter hours of his captivity.

Once more twilight lay long upon the waters; the time of *tryst was come; the* last which the beautiful

young Hanoum was ever to keep with her lover. She had long forgotten the possibility of his liberation; and when she stole from her chamber to the shadow of the tall cypresses that had so often witnessed their meeting, her heart bounded like her step. But no fond smile welcomed her coming; no reproach, more dear than praise, murmured against her tardiness; Bulhakoff was leaning his head against the tree beside which he stood, and the young beauty had clasped within her own the chill and listless hand that hung at his side, ere, with a painful start, he awakened from his reverie.

The interview was short; but, brief as was its duration, it had taught the wretched girl that for her there was no future save one of misery. She did not weep; her burning eye-balls were too hot for tears. She *could* not weep, for the drops of anguish would have dimmed the image of him whom she had loved, and was about to lose. She made no reply to the withering tidings he had brought, for what had words to do with such a grief as hers? She was like one who dreamt a fearful dream; and when she turned away to regain her chamber, she walked with a firm step, for her heart was broken; and she had nothing now left to do but to veil from her lover the extent of her own anguish, lest she should add to the bitterness of his.

The morrow came. **The Baron turned a long, soul-centered look towards the lattices of his young love,** and quitted her for ever; **and, ere many weeks were** spent, **the same group of cypresses which had over-shadowed the trysting-place of Rèchèdi Hanoum gloomed above her grave.**

CHAPTER VI.

Balouclè—The New Church—Delightful Road—Eyoub—The Cemetery—The Rebel's Grave—The Mosque of Blood—The Hill of Graves—The Seven Towers—The Palace of Belisarius—The City Walls—Easter Festivities—The Turkish Arabs—The Armenian Carriage—Travellers—Turkish Women—Seridjhes—Persians—Irregular Troops—The Plain of Balouclè—Laughable Mistake—Extraordinary Discretion—The Church of Balouclè—The Holy Well—Absurd Tradition—The Chapel Vault—Enthusiasm of the Greeks—A Pleasant Draught—Greek Substitute for a Bell—Violent Storm.

OUR next expedition was to Balouclè where the Greeks have recently built a small, but elegant, church, upon the spot once occupied by a very spacious edifice, which had gone to ruin. The ride, though long and somewhat fatiguing, was most delightful; the road leading us across the hills, to the fair Valley of the Sweet Waters, along the banks of the sparkling Barbyses, past the Imperial kiosques; and onward to the beautiful village of Eyoub, the stronghold of the Constantinopolitan Turks, wherein they allow no Giaour to reside; and the marble floor of whose thrice-holy mosque no infidel foot has ever trodden.

The situation of Eyoub is eminently picturesque. It is backed by gently-swelling hills, clothed with trees, where the delicate acacia and the majestic maple are mingled with the scented lime and the dark and rigid cypress, whose blended shadows fall over a thousand graves, and turn away the sunlight from the lettered tombs of many a lordly Musselmaun. Eyoub *possesses also a melancholy* interest from the fact V

in its beautiful cemetery stands the rude mausoleum of the rebel Ali of Tepeleni, who revolted in Albania, wherein are deposited the heads of himself, his three sons, and his grandson. Nor is this all; for a small mosque, almost buried amid tall trees, may be distinguished at the point where the main street sweeps downward to the water's edge, whose modest minaret is painted a dull red from its base to its spire, and which bears the thrilling designation of the "Mosque of Blood."

I have elsewhere mentioned that the Osmanli do not permit their temples to be desecrated by the admission of the dead beneath their roofs; and this humble pile earned its awful appellation at the siege of Constantinople, when its doors were forced by the combatants, and its narrow floor cumbered with slain. Since that period, its single minaret has been painted as I have described; and it possesses an additional interest from its vicinity to the bleak, naked, tree-less hill, whereon were interred all the True Believers who perished at that memorable period, and whose ashes still remain undisturbed.

Nothing can be more romantic than the appearance of the Seven Towers, the remains of the Palace of Belisarius, and the crumbling walls of the city, extending along the whole line of road to Baloukle, like a succession of ruined castles; and overtopped by forest trees, whose bright foliage forms a striking contrast from the grey and mouldering rampart. At intervals, towers, thickly overgrown with ivy, and tottering to their fall, raise their fantastic outline against the sky; while the moat is, in many places, entirely concealed by the wild fig trees, and the dense underwood, that have sprung in wild luxuriance from the rich soil.

At the period of our visit, the Eastern festivities were *at their height,* and the road was covered with groups

of travellers, all hurrying towards the same point. There was the gilded araba of the Turkish lady, with its covering of crimson cloth, and its carved latticea, followed by a mounted negro. Then came the bullock-carriage of an Armenian family, gaily painted and cushioned, its oxen half covered with worsted tassels and finery, and glittering about the head with foil and gold leaf; while a long curved stick, extending backward from each yoke as far as the carriage, was painted in stripes of blue and yellow, and adorned with pendent tassels of coloured worsted. Both animals wore their charm against the Evil Eye; and the whole equipage was sufficiently well-appointed to have done honour to the harem of a Pasha; while the bright dark eyes and delicate hands of its occupants would have been an equal triumph for his taste. But at the first glance you saw that the carriage was not that of a Turk, for the painted hoops were plainly covered by a white awning, the symbol of the *raïah*. The haughty Osmanli has reserved to himself the privilege of seating his wives beneath draperies of crimson, blue, or purple, fringed with gold; while the Armenian, the Greek, and the Jew, when making use of this popular conveyance, are obliged to content themselves with a simple awning of white linen. Here galloped a reckless Greek, urging his good hack to the top of its speed; there moved along a stately Turk, with the hand of his groom resting on the flank of his well-fed horse, and his pipe-bearer walking five paces behind him. Now it was a party of Franks, booted, spurred, and looking in silent scorn upon the incongruous trappings of the natives; and now a group of foot-passengers, walking at a pace which I never saw equalled in England.

As we approached Balouclè the features of the scene became still more striking. The low wall that skirted the road was *covered with* Turkish women, squatted *upon their rugs and carpets*, with the arabas in which

they had travelled ranged along behind them. *Seridjhes* were walking droves of horses to and fro, and waiting for customers to hire them; travelling merchants were retailing *yahourt* and *mohalibè* to the hungry and the weary; Bulgarians were playing their awkward antics to attract the attention of the idle, and the piastres of the profuse; and the halt and the blind were seated by the wayside, to invoke the *paras* of the charitable. Parties of Persians, with large white turbans, silken robes, and eyes as black as midnight, were walking their well-trained horses through the crowd; and a detachment of the Irregular Troops, with their jester at their head, in a cap made of sheep-skin, adorned with three fox-tails, and a vest of undressed leather, drove back the people on either side, as they made their way through the throng with a sort of short run. They had precisely the appearance of banditti, each being dressed and armed according to his own means or fancy; while their huge mustachioes, and the elf-locks that escaped from beneath their turbans, added to the ferocious character of their aspect.

The plain on which the Church is situated is thickly wooded in its immediate neighbourhood, and on this occasion was covered with a dense crowd of merry human beings. The same amusements as I have described at the Armenian festival were in full career; but the heavy meaningless dance of the *Champs des Morts* was here exchanged for the graceful *romaïka*, which was going forward in every direction.

For every other female whom I saw on the ground, I remarked at least a hundred and fifty Turkish women; and the astonishment excited by the appearance of the Greek lady by whom I was accompanied, and myself among these latter, was most amusing. As the greater number of them had never before seen a Frank lady *on horseback*, they concluded that we had each lost a *leg; and the* "Mashallahs!" with which they contem-

plated our gaiety were innumerable. But as a Turkish woman never scruples to address a stranger in the street; and as our being actually crippled was a matter of uncertainty, they resolved to satisfy their minds on this very important point; and several of them accordingly addressed themselves to the gentlemen of our party, in order to resolve the doubt; exclaiming with an energy worthy of the occasion, "For the love of God, tell us if your wives have lost a leg, or not!"

When they had been assured to the contrary, their next conclusion was still more amusing. It was clear that none but rope-dancers could balance themselves upon the back of a horse without having one leg on either side of the saddle—ergo, we were collectively, ladies and gentlemen, the identical party of rope-dancers, whom the Sultan had engaged for the marriage festivities of his Imperial daughter; and so perfectly convinced were they of their own sagacity on this second occasion, that I am only surprised they had sufficient discretion to refrain from requesting us to give them a specimen of our abilities.

The Church of Balouclè stands in the centre of an enclosed court, within which are also situated the houses of the priests. A handsome flight of stone steps leads downward to the portal; and, as you cross the threshold, the interior of the edifice produces on you the effect of something which has sprung into existence at the touch of an enchanter's wand. It looks as though it were built of porcelain, all is so fresh and so glittering. It is entirely lined with white and gold, and the paint upon the walls is so highly varnished, that you can scarcely distinguish it from the polished marble which composes the screen of the sanctuary; the latticed gallery of the women is fancifully decorated and gilt; and the elegant pulpit is shaped like an inverted minaret.

But the principal attraction of the Church of

Balouclè, and that which lends to it its distinguishing character of sanctity, is the Holy Well, dedicated to the Virgin, which, on the occasion of all high festivals, is opened for the benefit and edification of the pious. Situated in a vault immediately beneath the chancel, protected by a balustrade of marble, and lighted by the lamp that is constantly burning before the shrine of the Madonna, rises the spring whose holy and healing qualities are matter of devout belief with the Greeks; and in which the lower orders of the people gravely assert that fish are to be seen swimming about, cooked on one side and crude on the other.

This somewhat extraordinary circumstance is accounted for by a variety of legends; the most comprehensible of the whole being that which affirms that some holy man or woman having been refused food on this very spot, when on a pilgrimage to a shrine of the Virgin, situated in the neighbourhood, the well-disposed fish, whose pious self-immolation has been thus immortalized, sprang from the waters of the spring, and flung themselves upon the heated ashes of the fire, whereon the churlish host, who refused help to the weary and wayworn pilgrims, had just prepared his own meal. How the travellers were induced to refrain from the savoury repast; and how the fish contrived to return to the stream after being well cooked on one side, the legend sayeth not; and those who are inclined to doubt the fact of their present existence had better make a descent into the vault on the occasion of an Easter festival; and, should they still continue sceptical, after the scene which they will then and there witness, nothing that I can say will awaken their faith.

After having duly flung a few piastres upon the salver held by the priest who guarded the door; and protected on either side by a gentleman, to secure me *from the pressure* of the crowd, I commenced my *slippery descent* into the subterranean chapel. The

stone steps were running with water, spilt by the eager motions of those who were bearing it away; nor was this all, for, as they handed it to each other over the heads of such as chanced to obstruct their passage, an occasional shower fell upon us from above, whose holiness by no means sufficed to counteract its chill.

When I gained the chapel, and paused to take breath, a most singular scene presented itself. The narrow space was cumbered with individuals, who were shouting, struggling, and even fighting their way, to the margin of the Well: an image of the Virgin tricked out in gold and embroidery, before which burned the lamp that lit up the subterranean, gleamed out in vain from a niche opposite to the spring: the very piety of her votaries had induced them to turn their backs upon her: and I believe that mine was the only eye which rested upon her altar.

Some, who had succeeded in filling the vessels which they had brought with them, were standing bare-headed, throwing the cold stream over their shaven crowns: others, who had suffered from lameness, were emptying their earthen jars upon their feet; some were pouring it down their chests, and others again down their throats.

By the strenuous endeavours of my friends, and the assistance of a sickly-looking priest who was collecting *paras* among the crowd, I succeeded in obtaining a draught of the water; and, whether it arose from the stream having been thickened by the dipping in of so many vessels, or that the half fried fish imparted to it a disagreeable flavour of the charcoal ashes: or, again, that it was really and simply of very indifferent quality, I cannot take upon me to decide; while I am quite competent to declare that I never swallowed a more unsatisfactory beverage, and that nothing less than a very painful thirst would have induced me to venture *upon a second trial.*

pendicular pieces of timber, which, on being with a short bar of cypress-wood, emits a clear sound, that may be heard to a considerable In the smaller churches two sticks are beaten t but this signal avails only when the congreg nestled near the walls of the temple.

Having secured the water which they had much trouble to obtain, the enthusiastic an hearted Greeks were pouring out of the chap returned; and ere we could mount our horses them had already joined the dancers, and were in winding through the graceful mazes of the r while others were busied in filling their chibo the neighbourhood of the coffee-tents.

A mass of heavy vapours, rising up against t and arraying themselves like a host about to d warned us not to linger long at so considerab tance from home; and, profiting by the intim a coming storm, we started off at a gallop, t creased astonishment of the Turkish women, w still clustering like bees upon the wall. But o availed us nothing: we had not cleared the hil

CHAPTER VII.

Figurative gratitude of the Seraskier Pasha—Eastern Hyperbole—Reminiscences of Past Years—A Vision Realized—Strong Contrasts—Marriage Fêtes—Popular Excitement—Crowded Streets—The Auspicious Day—Extravagant Expectations—The Great Cemetery—Dolma Batché—The Grand Armoury—Turkish Women—Tents of the Pashas—The Bosphorus—Preparations—Invocation—The Illuminated Bosphorus—A Stretch of Fancy—A painful Recollection—Natural Beauties of the Bosphorus—The Grave-Yard—Evening Amusements—Well conducted Population.

In a letter of thanks recently addressed by the Seraskier Pasha to the Sultan, in acknowledgment of some honour conferred upon him by his Imperial Master, he exclaims in an affected burst of enthusiastic gratitude:—"Your Sublime favour has been as a southern sun piercing even to the remote corner of my insignificance. Had I all the forest boughs of the Universe for pens, and the condensed stars of Heaven for a page whereon to inscribe your bounties, I should still lack both space and means to record them!"

Even in this style should he or she, who undertakes to become their chronicler, shape the periods in which are detailed the marriage festivities of the Princess Mihirmàh. The pen should be tipped with diamond-dust, and the paper powdered with seed-pearls. All the hyperboles of the Arabian story-tellers should be heaped together, as the colours of the rainbow are *piled upon the clouds which* pillow the setting sun

and, as the gorgeous tail of the peacock serves to withdraw the eye from its coarse and ungainly feet, so should the glowing sentences, which dilate on the glories of the show, veil from the vision of the reader the paltry details that would tend to dissolve the enchantment.

How often have I hung entranced over the sparkling pages of the "Hundred and One Nights." How little did I ever expect to see them brought into action. When a mere girl, I remember once to have laid the volume on my knees, and, with my head pillowed on my hand, and my eyes closed, to have attempted to bring clearly before my mental vision the Caravan of the Merchand Abdullah, when he departed in search of the Valley of Diamonds.

Years have since passed over me, and that gorgeous description is no longer a mere dream. I have looked upon its realization; I have seen the flashing of the jewels in the sunshine; the prancing of the steeds impatient of a rider; the rolling of the fifty chariots; the gathering of the throng of princes; the eunuchs and the horsemen—winding their way over hill and through valley, under a sky of turquoise, along the bank of a clear stream; and within sight of a sea whose shore was studded with palaces, and upon whose bosom a fleet of stately ships were riding at anchor within an arrow's flight of land.

But I have also seen more than this. I have seen not only the machinery at work, but the wheels that worked it; not only the brilliant effect, but the combination of paltry means used to produce it—the blending of the magnificent and the *mesquin*—a thousand minute details, unimportant in themselves, and yet operating so powerfully on the imagination, that they clipped the wings of Fancy, and wrung the *wand from the* grasp of the Enchanter.

There is no consistency, no keeping, in Oriental

splendour. The Pasha, with the diamond on his breast, is generally attended by a running footman who is slip-shod; and the Sultana, whose araba is veiled by a covering of crimson and gold, not unfrequently figures in pantaloons of furniture chintz, and an antery of printed cotton. The same startling contrast meets you at every step: and tourists and historians pass them over, because they destroy the continuity of their narrations, and the rounding of their periods; and yet they are as characteristic of the people as the chibouque or the turban, and therefore equally worthy of record.

The Fêtes were to continue for eight days; the diamond was to be shivered into fragments, and thus divided into many portions without sacrificing its lustre. All the population of Constantinople was in a ferment; the tcharchis had yielded up their glittering store of gold and silver stuffs; the diamond-merchants had exhausted themselves in elegant conceits; the confectioners had realized the fabled garden of enchantment visited by Aladdin in his search for the magic lamp, and the candied fruits peeped from amid their sugary cases, like masses of precious ore and clusters of jewels; the silk bazaar of Broussa was a waste; the environs of Pera resembled a scattered camp; the heights around the valley of Dolma Batchi were guarded by mounted troops; provisions of every description trebled their price; and one vessel, laden with a hundred and fifty thousand fowls for the market of Constantinople, which arrived from the Archipelago, was secured for the exclusive use of the Sultan's kitchen.

Pashas were daily pouring in from the provinces; tribute was flung into the yawning coffers of the state; audiences of congratulation kept the imperial palace in a constant whirl; and the streets of the city were thronged with a motley crowd, either invited thither by the authorities, *or attracted by* the hope of profit. *Bulgarians, in parties of three or four,* impeded the

progress of every respectable passenger who would fain have threaded his way among them unmolested; and, by dint of stunning him with their discordant instruments, and intruding themselves upon his path to exhibit their coarse and ungainly dances, wrung from him by their sturdy perseverance a donation whose impulse was certainly not one of charity. Bohemian gipsies, some of them so lovely that they seemed formed to command the prosperity which they subtilely promised to others, were bestowing palaces and power on every side at the slender price of a few *paras*. Arabian tumblers, turned loose for the first time in the streets of a great capital, and appearing scarcely able to keep their feet upon the solid earth, jostled you at every corner. Persian rope-dancers stalked gravely and solemnly along, with large white turbans and flowing robes. Bedouin jugglers were grouped in coffee-shops and smoking-booths, awaiting the moment when their services would be required; and bewildering the sober brains of the surrounding Turks with loud vauntings of the feats with which they proposed to delight his Sublime Highness and to astonish his people. Altogether, Constantinople resembled a human kaleidoscope, whose forms and features varied at every turn; and even those who, like myself, had no immediate interest in the festival, caught a portion of the popular excitement, and became anxious for the period of its celebration.

At length, the auspicious morning dawned which the Court Astrologer had declared to herald happiness to the Princess; and all Stamboul had crossed the Bosphorus with the rising sun, to share in the imperial festivities.

Long before mid-day, Pera also was a desert: the stream of life had flowed in one sole direction, and every avenue leading to Dolma Batchè was thronged with human beings, anxious and excited, and yet

scarcely knowing what they anticipated. The marriage festival had been the one engrossing subject of discourse and speculation for so many months; such extravagant suggestions had been hazarded, and such wild assertions had been made, that the imagination of the crowd had run riot; and, had the fountains poured forth liquid ore, and the heavens themselves rained diamond-dust, I am not sure that such events would have caused any extraordinary manifestation of astonishment, from the mass of spectators who had clustered themselves like bees in the neighbourhood of the palace.

The Great Cemetery looked as though every grave had given up its dead; there was scarcely space to pass among the crowd which thronged it. Dancing, smoking, and gambling for sugar-plums (the only stake that a Turk ever hazards on a game of chance), divided the attention of the loiterers, with swings, round-abouts, and *mohalibè* merchants. Pillauf and kibaubs were preparing in every direction for the refreshment of the hungry; and tinted and perfumed sherbets, carefully guarded from the sun, were whiling in their turn the weary and the warm to pause on their onward path, and indulge in their tempting freshness.

The tents were flaunting their bright colours in the sunshine; the smoking booths were filled with guests; the little wooden kiosque on the edge of the height was unapproachable; the long line of wall surrounding the Artillery Barrack was, as usual on all festive occasions, covered with Turkish women; and the whole space beneath was instinct with life and motion.

From the point of the hill above the sea the land shoots sharply down into the valley of Doma Batchè, clothed with fruit trees, whose perfumed blossoms, then in the height of their beauty, were emptying their tinted chalices on the air. The road leading to the Palace *is cut along the side* of the declivity, forming

on its upper edge a lofty ridge, which was fringed throughout its whole length with tents; in the distance rose the Military College, spanning the crest of the hill like a diadem; with the gilded and glittering crescent that crowns the dome of its mosque flashing in the sunshine. On the right hand, the view was bounded by the dense forest of cypresses rising above the tombs of the Turkish cemetery, which swept darkly downwards to the Bosphorus that was laughing in its loveliness, and reflecting on its waveless bosom the lovely height of Scutari which hemmed in the landscape. And as the eye wandered onward along the channel, it took in the dusky shore of Asia, with its kiosque-crowned and forest-clad mountains; until the line was lost in the gradually failing purple which blent itself at last with the horizon.

Immediately beneath the hill, and close upon the shore, stands the Palace of Dolma Batchè, with its walls of many tints, and its fantastic irregularity of outline; while, behind its spacious gardens, sloping gently upward, and clothed with turf, rises a stretch of land which was now crowded with Turkish women. Nothing could be more picturesque than their appearance: the nature of the gronnd having enabled them to arrange themselves amphitheatrically, and from thence to command an uninterrupted view of the esplanade in front of the Grand Armoury, which is enclosed on its opposite side by a raised terrace, along whose edge were pitched the tents of the Pashas. There must have been at least five hundred women clustered together on that one small stretch of land; and in the distance it presented precisely the appearance of a meadow covered with daisies, with here and there a corn-poppy flaunting in the midst; the white yashmacs and red umbrellas lending themselves readily to the illusion.

The tents of the Pashas were many of them very *magnificent;* the Grand Vèzir's was hung with crimson

velvet, richly embroidered; while that of Achmet Pasha was lined with green satin, and fringed with gold: and the whole were richly carpeted, and surrounded by handsome sofas. The reception-marquee, in which the Sultan was to entertain a party of guests daily, was situated in the rear of those that I have just described: and the kitchen, ingeniously fitted up with stoves, dressers, and tables, hewn in the hill-side, was tenanted by five hundred cooks.

The Bosphorus was crowded with caïques, almost as countless as its waves; and immediately in front of the palace, and nearly in the centre of the stream, were anchored two rafts, supporting small fortified castles, whence the fireworks were to be displayed.

A survey of these different preparations proved to be the principal amusement of the day, as the rope-dancing on the Esplanade of the Armoury was not sufficiently attractive to detain any individual less indolent than a Turkish woman; and consequently, after having completed our tour of observation, we returned to Pera in order to repose ourselves, and to prepare for the magnificent spectacle that awaited us in the evening.

And now, ye Spirits of Fire, who guard the subterranean flames which are only suffered to flash forth at intervals from the crater of some fierce volcano: Ye, whose brows are girt with rays of many-coloured radiance, whose loins are cinctured by the lightning, and whose garments are of the tint which hangs like a drapery over the cineritious remnants of a conflagrated city: Ye, who must have left your vapoury palaces, and bowed your flame-crowned heads upon your gleaming wings, in blighted pride to see your lordliest pageants overmatched: lend me a pen of fire, drawn from the pinion of your bravest sprite, and fashioned with *an unwrought diamond*; for thus only *can I record the glorious scene* that burst upon me, as,

at the close of day, I stood upon a height above the channel, when a festive people had recorded their participation in the gladness of their monarch in characters of fire.

The moon rode high in heaven, but her beam looked pale and sickly as it faded before the brighter light with which men had made night glorious; while the stars seemed but fading sparks, that had been emitted by the stupendous line of fire girdling the Bosphorus—It was a spectacle of enchantment!

Not an outline could be traced of any of the lordly piles which fringe the coast. The summit of the Asian shore was dimly perceptible; and there was no intrusive object of mortal creation for the every-day necessities of life to recal the wandering fancy back to earth. Nothing can be conceived more beautiful than the whole scene. A range of palaces of the most fantastic forms, wrought in fire, and seeming to be poised upon the waves, along which they threw their gleaming shadows, stretched far as the eye could reach. Portals of variegated light—terraces of burnished gold, or of beaten silver—groves of forest trees, whose leaves were emeralds—fruits, heaped in stately vases, each one a priceless gem—altars, upon which burnt flames of liquid metal—pavilions of crystal—and halls, lined with columns of sapphire, and lighted by domes of carbuncles, were among the objects that appeared to have sprung up from the depths of the ocean, and to be now riding upon its bosom.

The sensation which this gorgeous scene produced upon me, for the first few moments, was almost painful. I deemed myself thralled—I doubted my own identity—I almost expected the earth to fail beneath my feet, for earth had no share in the spectacle on *which* I looked—I saw boats passing and repassing *over a lake* of molten silver—I saw palaces of fire *based upon* its surface, and heaving with its undula-

ons—a marine monster, whose eyes were dazzling, ad whose nostrils vomited forth flames that shot high nto the air, wound its slow way among the gliding arks, and none heeded its vicinity—I beheld huge lark masses covered with stars of light, which were reflected in the stream beneath, looking like rocky craters that would shortly burst, and cast forth the imprisoned fires — carriages and horses guided by spectral hands, followed over the same cold, clear surface—and suddenly, with a hissing sound which startled me from my reverie, and a burst of light almost blinding, up sprang a cluster of fiery serpents into the pure ether, mocking the pale moon with their transient brilliancy, and then falling back in starry showers.

The dream of fancy was dispelled at once:—A handful of rockets sufficed to arouse me from one of the wildest visions in which I ever remember to have indulged—for I no sooner saw them run shimmering along the sky, than I sickened at the memory of the frightful catastrophe which attended their preparation; when eighty-four miserable human beings fell victims to the explosion of the powder-room of the manufactory. My enthusiasm was at an end: but my admiration of the magnificent scene, amid which I stood, continued unabated; the channel of the Bosphorus, beautiful under all circumstances, and at all times, offered facilities, and enhanced effects, in an exhibition like that on which I looked, that cannot probably be exceeded in the world; and I felt at once that, even had man done less, nature would still have made the pageant peerless.

We at length turned reluctantly away from the City of Fire on which we had been so long looking; and threading among the tents that occupied the crest o the hill, we passed *out through* the fair of the Gree *Cemetery. Every booth was* thronged. In one, a

of Fantoccini were performing their miniature drama: in another, an Improvisatore was regaling a circle of listeners with a gesticulation and volubility which appeared to excite great admiration in his auditors; while in a third, a trio of Bohemian minstrels, squatted upon a mat, were accompanying their wild recitative by a few chords struck almost at random upon their mandolins.

In the distance, a wreath of lamps defined the outline of the Military College: while lower in the valley gleamed out the costly chandeliers which lit up the tents of the Pashas. The hills were sprinkled over with lights; the terrace at the extremity of the palace was a wall of fire; and the scene was all life and gladness. Crowds thronged the narrow road; but not a sound of discord, not a word uttered in menace or in defiance, escaped from the lips of a single individual; all were tranquil, orderly, and well conducted; the sole aim of each was amusement; and this great eastern mob, amounting to between forty and fifty thousand persons, collected together from all the surrounding country, from the heart of a great city, and from the shores of two different quarters of the earth, appeared to act from one common impulse, and to have one common interest.

It is questionable whether such a fact as this could be recorded of any other country.

CHAPTER VIII.

Repetition—The Esplanade—The Kiosque and the Pavilion—A Short Cut—Dense Crowd—A Friend at Court—Curious *Coup d'Œil*—The Arena—The Orchestra—First Act of the Comedy—Disgusting Exhibition—Birth of the Ballet—Dancing Boys—Second Act of the Drama—Insult to the Turkish Women—Provost Marshal—Yusuf Pasha, the Traitor—Clemency of the Sultan—Forbearance of an Oriental Mob—Renewal of the Ballet—Last Act of the Drama—Theatrical Decorations—Watch Dogs and Chinese—Procession of the Trades—Frank Merchants—Thieves and Judges—Bedouin Tumblers—Fondness of the Pashas for Dancing—The Wise Men of the East.

It were worse than idle to follow the daily progress of the Fêtes. It were but to weary the reader with repetitions, or to delude him with fictions; for the same actors being engaged during the whole of the festival, only varied their exhibitions sufficiently to emancipate themselves from the reproach of actual repetition. So monotonous, indeed, did I find the second representation I was induced to witness, that I never ventured upon a third.

I have already mentioned that the Esplanade of the Grand Armoury had been selected as one of the spots upon which the sports were to take place; but I learnt from an individual who had possessed himself of the important secret that the principal performers were to exhibit on a piece of land situated between the palace walls and the kiosque, in which the Pashas did the honours to the dinner-guests of the Sultan, after the *termination of their repast;* while a Garden Pavilion, *whose windows opened* upon this space, was to be

tenanted by his Sublime Highness, his Imperial daughters, the Sultana their mother, and half a dozen of the most favoured ladies of the harem, who, from the painted lattices, could look forth upon the scene.

This arrangement sufficiently attested the superiority of the situation; and, accordingly, avoiding the crowd of the *Champ des Morts*, and the thronged descent into the valley, we drove across the hills beyond the Military College; and then, skirting the height above Dolma Batchè, suddenly descended almost under the walls of the palace. But the chosen spot was surrounded by guards, and the crowd were clustered densely in their rear; so densely indeed, that the *arabadjhe* declared our further progress to be altogether impracticable.

From this dilemma we were fortunately extricated by an officer of Achmet Pasha's household; who, perceiving the difficulty, hastened to remove it, which he effected in no very gentle manner by striking the individuals who impeded our passage right and left with the flat of his sword, until he established us immediately behind the line of military.

The performances had not yet commenced, and I had consequently time to contemplate the animated scene before me. On my right was the kiosque, whose wide casements were crowded with Pashas; on my left the Garden Pavilion, which had the honour of screening from the gaze of the vulgar the Brother of the Sun and his train of attendant beauties; behind me rose the hill whose summit was covered with the tents of the Imperial suite, and whose rise was occupied by a crowd of Turkish females; and before me stretched the Bosphorus. A small opening, leading down from the arena, towards the shore, was occupied by a detachment of military; and beneath the windows of the kiosque, mats had been spread for about a hundred *women, who* were comfortably established under the *long shadows of* the building.

At the other extremity of the circle, thirteen Jews, seated crescent-wise, were playing upon tambourines; while as many more, squatted in their rear, were each beating upon a sort of coarse drum, whose only attribute was noise; and the time to be observed by the musicians was regulated by an individual, with a venerable white beard and a staff of office. This head-splitting orchestra continued to accompany the whole performance, with very slight intervals of rest; and was quite in keeping with the remainder of the exhibition.

Not the slightest effort had been made to level the piece of land thus converted into a temporary theatre, and which was stony and uneven to a degree that must have disconcerted any individuals less philosophical than those who were to exhibit their histrionic and terpsichorean talents before the Ottoman Emperor and his August Court. In fact, the whole of the scenic preparations were conducted in so primitive a manner that you saw at once no deceit was intended, and that, if you suffered yourself to be led away by the incidents of the drama, you would not be deluded thereto by any effort of the actors.

The first arrival upon the scene was that of four ragged personages, apparently intended to represent the street porters who ply for hire about the quays and markets; and these interesting individuals sustained a long and animated conversation, setting forth the dull condition of the Queen of Cities, in which neither feast nor festival had been held since the Bairam. Their lamentations at length attracted the attention of a fifth loiterer of the same class, who, joining the group, gave a new tone to the subject by announcing the approaching marriage of the High and Peerless Princess Mihirmàh; the daughter of His Sublime Highness Mahmoud the Powerful, the Emperor of the East, and *Conqueror of the World!*

The intelligence was received with enthusiasm, and the new comer was encouraged to proceed with his narration; in which he accordingly set forth not only the beauties and virtues of the Imperial Bride, and the high and endearing qualities of her affianced husband, but also gave a *catalogue raisonné* of all the sports and ceremonies which were to be observed on the happy occasion of her nuptials; and it is only fair to believe that he did so with some address, as a murmur of admiration ran through the crowd who were devouring his discourse.

After asserting that the whole universe had been taxed to produce novelties worthy of the illustrious event, he proposed to exhibit to his companions an ingenious machine which had been imported from Europe, and was to be exhibited by a friend of his own. Hereupon, a sort of buffoon was introduced, attended by two men, who fixed a swing with a lattice seat between two slight wooden frames, which they were obliged to support during the remainder of the scene.

One by one, the respectable worthies whom I have attempted to describe were seated in the swing, and rocked gently backwards and forwards by the proprietor of the show; and during this time an old Jew, with a long white beard and tattered garments, followed by a deformed and hideous dwarf, joined himself to the party, but at a sufficient distance to indicate that he was conscious of his unworthiness to intrude upon their notice.

A mischievous whim suddenly prompted the hilarious Musselmauns to make the quailing dwarf a party in their pastime, and they accordingly placed him in the swing, and amused themselves for a time with his abortive attempts to escape; but, wearying of the jest, they agreed to replace him by his master; and despite the *prayers and* terror of the hoary Jew, they compelled *him to occupy* the crazy seat, which, failing beneath

his weight, precipitated him to the ground, where, falling upon his head, he remained apparently lifeless.

At this period of the performance, half a score of the members of the orchestra left their places, and walked demurely out of the ring, in order to swell the crowd which shortly afterwards advanced to raise the body of the murdered man, and convey him away to burial.

Nothing can be conceived more disgusting than the scene that followed; all the actors being actually Jews, selected from the very dregs of the people, and compelled to exhibit the degradation of their social state for the amusement of their task-masters. A wretched bier, borne by four men, was brought forward, on which the supposed corpse was flung with a haste and indecency betokening strong alarm; and it was about to disappear with its loathsome freight, when its passage was obstructed by a party of police, who, occupying the centre of the path along which it was passing, and remaining erect on its approach, were supposed to awaken in the bosoms of the bearers one of the strongest superstitions of the Jews of Turkey; who, when they are carrying a body to the grave that is met by a Christian or Mohammedan who refuses to bend down and pass under the bier, consider the corpse so contaminated by the contact as to be without the pale of salvation; and, setting down the body under this impression on the spot where the encounter has taken place, they abandon it to the tender mercies of the local authorities.

This wretched and revolting superstition was enacted by the degraded wretches who were hired on the present occasion to expose the abjectness of their people, with all the painful exactness which could delude the spectator into the belief that he beheld a scene of actual and unpremeditated *horror*. A distracted wife tore *off her turban, and plucked* out handfuls of her hair

ling of the combatants, was borne off in triumj
tribe, with a wild chorus that terminated the
of the drama.

At intervals, the disgust which this hateful e
tended to excite in my bosom was relieved
arrival of some tardy Pasha, attended by a
domestics; who, entering the arena by the p
which I have already alluded as opening
shoreward side of the enclosure, guided his ri
parisoned steed, whose housings were bright w
and embroidery, through the motley throng o
while his diamond star glittered in the sunsl
his gold-wrought sword-belt and jewelled we
flashed back the light that glanced upon them

My pen wearies of its office, as I pursue t
of the morning's performance; but I compel
the task, in order to convey to my readers an
idea of the Turkish drama; for this coarse, r
and aimless exhibition, whose description I h
menced, is the highest effort that the histrioni
yet made in Turkey; and I am bound to add
effect which it produced upon the spectator

notwithstanding the splendour of their costume, that I was surprised to learn they all belonged to the Sultan, or to different wealthy Pashas, who take so much delight in seeing them dance as to keep several constantly in their pay.

As I had been assured that the whole of the exhibition remained precisely similar to the scenic amusements of the ancient Romans, I contemplated it with more patience than I should otherwise have been able to exert: for I soon discovered that the dancing was quite upon a par with the dramatic portion of the entertainment. If that upon which I now looked were indeed the germ whence sprang the most graceful and the most elegant of all the movements of which the human form is susceptible—if this were indeed the birth of the Ballet—then is it a fair child which may truly blush for its parentage: for the exhibition was coarse, monotonous, and wearisome, nor did it possess one redeeming attribute. An unceasing circuit of the enclosure, a wreathing of arms and handkerchiefs, an affected inclination of the head first to the one side and then to the other, a beating of feet upon the earth, and a succession of prostrations before the Pashas, appeared to be the extent of talent of which the dancers were capable; and the only variation that I was able to discover was an increase of speed, which rendered the heavy movements of the exhibitors only the more conspicuous. The very appearance, moreover, of this party of petticoated and long-haired youths was revolting to my English ideas; and, despite the acclamations with which they were liberally greeted, I felt glad when they made their parting obeisance, and gave place to the second series of performers.

A Turk, fèzed and coated, next entered upon the scene—a sort of Oriental Jacques, melancholy and gentleman-like, who told a tale of blighted love and consequent sadness; at whose termination he w

The buffoon resolved, as it appeared, to
of his constancy; or outraged at the affect
anti-Turkish a display of sensibility, shortly
and returned accompanied by three of
dancers, disguised as females, and wearing
mac and the *feridjhe*. Of course, curiosity
to indifference, and passion to curiosity; and
love-making ensued, that consisted of atte
duce the ladies to unveil; experiments with
which occasionally broke down to the great
of the spectators; and energetic asseverati
one part and the other.

During the scene, the principal dancer,
sonated the attractive fair one, displayed c
talent in his part; the *feridjhe* was thrown
those Franks who were present, and who
necessarily hope to gain even a glimpse of
female in the costume of the harem, had her
lent opportunity of forming an idea of th
ance; and not only of their appearance, b
manners also, for the resemblance was pe

ie casements of their harems with lattices, and the aces of their women with *yashmacs*, sat not only quietly but admiringly by, while all, and probably more than all, the secrets of the interior were laid bare, and caricatured for the amusement of the vulgar. There could not have been a high-minded Turkish woman present, who did not blush at least as deeply for her husband as for herself; and not a pure-hearted female of any nation, who did not feel more contempt for the instigators of the insult than for its objects.

Not one of the least extraordinary portions of the day's performances was enacted by a young Pasha, recently promoted to that distinguished rank, with the additional titles of General, and Provost-Marshal of the Ottoman armies. This very heavy and coarse-looking individual, who was formerly Commandant of the Military College in its days of neglect and utter uselessness, is the son of Yusuf Pasha, the treacherous chief who sold Varna to the Russians, and escaped into the Northern States, where he remained secure, until the kind-hearted Nicholas had wrung his pardon from the betrayed Sultan; who in his plenitude of mercy not only forgave the crime of his false servant, but rewarded his affected penitence with the Pashalik of Belgrade, which he now enjoys.

Mustapha Pasha, his son figured on the occasion of the Fêtes with a diamond star upon his breast, and grasping a whip bound with gold wire, and furnished with a long lash, which he laid about the heads and shoulders of the mob with a most lavish hand, whenever they advanced an inch or two beyond their allotted boundary. I confess that I could not help smiling as I pictured to myself the reception which His Highness Mustapha Pasha, General of Brigade, and Provost-Marshal of the Ottoman armies, would have received from a sturdy English mob, when they *felt his long whip among them*! I suspect that W

labours would have been brief, and his office not altogether a safe one.

Could I have disengaged my carriage from the crowd, I should at once have retired, perfectly satisfied with the specimen I had obtained of the Turkish taste in theatricals; but the arabas were standing four deep, and pressed upon from behind by a dense mob; and I was consequently compelled to remain a patient spectator of the whole performance. Intrigues with Greek serving-men, domestic quarrels ending in blows, and similarly well-conceived incidents, filled up the canvass, until the end of the second act, when a fresh set of ballet dancers, amounting to nearly one hundred, and clad in the beautiful old Greek dress, entered, and made their bow to the Pashas.

During their performance, which was similar to that of the first party, although less gracefully executed, a new feature was added to the exhibition. An attempt at side scenes was evident, though I confess that for the first few minutes I was at a loss to imagine the intention of the very primitive machinery that was introduced. A couple of frames, similar to those on which linen is dried in England, were placed on a line about twenty feet apart, while, in the centre, a low railing of about six feet in length divided the distance. A poor old wretch, with a rope about his neck, was then tied to each frame, and made to squat down upon his hands and knees, to represent a watch-dog; and some green almonds were scattered about him for his food.

These miserable individuals, whose hired and voluntary degradation made me heart-sick, were both of them old men, whose beards were grey, and whose age should have exempted them from such an office as their necessities had induced them to fulfil. Beside these were placed two youths dressed as Chinese, with *long braids* hanging down their backs, and feather

ns in their hands; not very unlike the figures which
dorn the old china in the cabinet of an antiquary.
Next came forward a procession composed of all the
trades of Constantinople, from the Jew who vends fried
fish at the corners of the streets, to the Frank merchant,
who, when he closes his office, becomes one of the
"Exclusives" of Pera.

Of course, the Frank was very roughly handled.
His hat was struck off, and made a football for all the
ragamuffins by whom he was surrounded; and the
comments which were uttered alike upon his costume
and his country were by no means courteous or con-
ciliatory. But it could scarcely be expected that more
delicacy would be observed towards a Frank than had
been shown to the women of the country; and, this
specimen of bad taste apart, the procession was the
best point of the performance; as the individuals who
composed it appeared to have been principally "taken
in the fact," and forced upon the scene; thus affording
faithful rather than flattering representations of their
several callings.

When the procession moved off, the serious business
of the drama was resumed; the three females re-entered
on the scene, accompanied by their mother, and a
Greek serving-man, laden with their parasols and
essence-bottles; and followed by two thieves, who con-
cealed themselves behind the Chinese statues, for such
I found that the two quaint figures who had so quietly
walked to their places were intended to represent.
After a vast deal of absurd grimace and buffoonery,
rugs were spread in front of the low railing, and
four females and the Greek servant seated themselves
to listen to a tale told by the old woman.

While they were thus engaged, the melancholy
Jacques of the previous act stole upon their privacy,
when an absurd exhibition of screaming and fainting
took place; during which the two thieves con-

without any attempt at self-concealment, to possess themselves of the cachemires and handkerchiefs of the ladies, and, moving a few paces apart, they began to divide the spoil; when the buffoon, in his turn, perambulating about the neighbourhood, discovered the theft, and raising a hue and cry, at which the dogs were let loose by the party, hastened during the confusion to seize upon the booty of the robbers. The outcry attracted the attention of the Cadi, who entered, accompanied by his attendants, to ascertain the cause of the tumult; when the ladies, with tears and shrieks, declared the amount of their losses, and demanded justice.

Of course the good taste which had made a jest of the feelings of their allies, and the morals of their women, would not permit the Turkish comedians to spare their judges; and accordingly the Cadi was a huge caricature of humanity, with spectacles as large as saucers, and a beard of sheep skin. A hurried trial ensued, in which, while the Cadi was ogling the females, the buffoon was making himself merry at the expense of the Cadi; the executioner with his bastinado, and the clerk with his inkhorn and parchment were both forthcoming; and the drama ended by the capture of the thieves and the restoration of the stolen property!

A confused dance, accompanied by the wild, shrill chanting of the dancers, which I can compare to nothing but the orgies of a troop of Bacchantes, succeeded the departure of the actors, and the whole arena appeared in motion. The drums and tambourines gave out their loudest discord; gold and silver glittered in the sunshine; arms were tossed in the air; the long tresses of the performers floated on the wind; and I was delighted when the appearance of a troop of Bedouin Arabs, summoned to Stamboul expressly for the occasion, possessed themselves of the open space *to exhibit their* feats of strength and address. They

ere magnificently attired in coloured satins, and ormed a very curious group; but their accomplishments would scarcely have secured for them an engagement in a respectable English booth. It was altogether pitiable.

When I at length contrived to escape from the crowd, I left a party of the dancing boys performing their evolutions in the Kiosque of the Pashas. Their Highnesses had not yet had a surfeit of the senseless pastime; and the youths were reaping a golden harvest.

The days are gone by in which people were wont to talk of the "Wise Men of the East."

CHAPTER IX.

Succession of Banquets—The Chèïk Islam and the Clergy—Sectarian Prejudices—The Military Staff—The Naval Chiefs—The Imperial Household—The Pashas—The Grand Vizier—Magnificent Procession—Night Scene on the Bosphorus—The Palace of the Seraskier Pasha—Palace of Azmé Sultane—Midnight Serenade—Pretty Truants—The Shore of Asia—Ambassadorial Banquet—War Dance—Beautiful Effects of Light.

ONE of the most characteristic features of the marriage festivities was the succession of banquets given by the Sultan to the different high personages, belonging to, or connected with, his Empire.

The first day was sacred to the clergy, and the procession was a most interesting one. At its head walked the Chèïk Islam, with the golden circlet about his brow, and his graceful robes of white cachemire falling around him in heavy folds: a party of the principal Imams followed. Then came the High Chief of the Turning Dervishes, with his lofty hat of white felt folded about with a shawl of the sacred green, and shrouded in his ample mantle. Other sects of Dervishes succeeded; and after them came Hadjis from the Holy Shrine of Mahomet; Emirs with their voluminous white turbans; and Fakirs from the far East. A short space behind advanced the Greek Patriarch, with his jewelled crown, and robes of embroidered satin; supported by a group of prelates. Following close upon his steps, next moved forward *the Armenian* Archbishop, similarly attended, and *gorgeously* attired; and as he advanced, he made way

for the Jewish Hahāmbachi, or Grand Rabbi, with his flowing beard and inlaid crosier; a throng of Rabbis were in his train; and altogether the scene was one of a most interesting character.

On the arrival of these holy men at the banquetting-tent, a delicate difficulty presented itself. The heads of the Greek and Armenian churches resolutely refused to sit at table with, or to eat from the same dish as their Israelitish companion; while the Jew, on his side, declared the utter impossibility of his partaking of the same food as that eaten by his Christian brethren. The stately Chèïk Islam, meanwhile, was sitting by in uninterested silence, wondering, in the tolerance of his own heart and creed, why men serving the same God should not "dip with each other in the dish."

The difficulty was at length surmounted; for, as the Jewish law did not permit the Hahāmbachi to partake of flesh that had not been slaughtered by one of his own tribe, there was nothing left for him but a dinner of cheese and salad, which was accordingly spread on a side-table; while the scrupulous Christian prelates, who had refused the companionship of the representative of the ancient religion, seated themselves quietly on either side of the High Priest of Mahomet, and made an excellent dinner. The honours were done by four of the principal Pashas; and, at the close of the repast, the party adjourned to the kiosque to which I have already made reference, in order to enjoy the flight of the rockets, and the fairy wonders of the illuminated Bosphorus.

To the church succeeded the army; and on the morrow, Achmet Pasha, and the principal officers of the Staff, were the invited guests.

The magnificent shipping in the harbour next gave up its chiefs; *and again Ach*met Pasha, as temporary *High Admiral, headed the* board.

On the fourth day, all the members of the Imperial Household were feasted in their turn; and, on the fifth, came the princely train of Pashas.

The Grand Vèzir rode first on a magnificent white Arabian, whose housings were wrought with gold and seed-pearl. His bridle-rein was richly worked with coloured silks; and his golden stirrups were finely chased. His sword-hilt blazed with diamonds; and the brilliant order that he wore upon his breast burned in the sun-light; fifteen servants on foot surrounded his horse.

He was followed by the four newly-elected Vèzirs: the Oumouri-Mulkièna*z*iri, or Minister of the Interior; the Oumouri-Karidjiè-Na*z*iri, or Minister of the Exterior; the Minister of Military Finances; and the Lord High Comptroller of the Mint: by the Seraskier Pasha, the Generalissimo of the Imperial Armies, the Grand Master of the Artillery, and a crowd of outdwelling Pashas, who had been summoned by the Sultan to assist at the festival.

I never witnessed a more magnificent or profuse display of diamonds and embroidery; of proud steeds and glittering parade. The crowd of running footmen; the trampling of impatient chargers; the clashing of jewelled weapons against the gilded stirrups; the noise, the hurry, and the glare, baffle all description: and when at length the princely train had disappeared within the tent, and the grooms were leading away the splendid animals, who, freed from the control of a rider, were rearing and prancing among the crowd, I felt like one suddenly awakened from a gorgeous dream, and had only a severe headache left, to convince me that I had really been a spectator of the splendid scene.

In the evening, well furred and cloaked, we descended to the pier of Topp-hannè; and having secured one of the large caïques that ply to the islands, we

ped on board; and, rowing out into the middle of channel, contemplated at our ease the wonders ch surrounded us. From the centre of the stream, whole mass of waters appeared to be girdled with e; the shore was wrapt in darkness, and the edifices light seemed to lift themselves almost to the clouds. can conceive nothing finer of its kind; and we con- nued almost motionless where we had first paused, ur caïque heaving gently upon the bosom of the vaters; until a large flight of rockets gave us a momentary view of the surrounding shores; but, above all, of the surface of the channel.

If I had been surprised at the density of the crowd on shore, I was tenfold more so at the floating throng which had almost choked up the passage of the Bosphorus. Every light and manageable craft that could be made available, was astir that night, from the caïque of the Pasha, to the little, round, tub-like boat of the Archipelagon trader; while the countless white *yashmacs* of the women gleamed out in the light of the rockets like a dense ridge of surf, as you approached nearer to the edge of the shore; a circumstance which was readily accounted for by the fact that no Turkish female is allowed to walk the streets after eight o'clock at night, and that this was consequently their only method of witnessing the illuminations.

Having contemplated the general effect from a distance, we with some difficulty made our way through the caïques which were closely wedged together opposite the Palace of Dolma Batchè, just in time to escape one of the magnificent explosions produced by the Greek fires, that were blazing up out of the water in every direction, and which burst not five yards from our boat.

Of all the illuminations, that of the Seraskier Pasha, taken individually, was by far the most brilliant. The whole *façade of the palace* was one blaze of light;

and, in lieu of the oil by which the lamps were filled in every other instance, he had fed the flame with some ardent spirit, which gave to it the fitful tint and the flashing brilliancy of diamonds. A magnificent screen in arabesques, on the opposite coast, at the small summer palace of Scutari, was the next most attractive object of the Bosphorus. But it is only as a whole that such a pageant should be judged; and all those who looked upon the one which I have attempted to describe, will doubtlessly concede that it was a spectacle of beauty which has probably never been exceeded.

We made our way slowly, but without much difficulty, along the European shore, until we reached the Palace of Azmè Sultane: but for a while after we had gained that point all further progress was impossible. There must have been many hundred caïques wedged together in front of her terrace, and not less than fifty of them contained musicians. We had intended to disembark at the palace steps, and to pay a visit to Nazip Hanoum, but were obliged to abandon the idea, as we became instantly aware that the thing was impracticable. We therefore remained quietly in our boat, under the bright light of the magnificent screen upon whose surface coloured lamps were intermixed with orange boughs and exotic flowers. The terrace was crowded; and I saw more than one light and fairy figure, that even the feridjhe failed wholly to conceal, which looked as though its owner should rather have been peering through the slender lattices, than from beneath the shade of a *yashmac;* but the occasion was so rife with excitement, and the voices from the caïques were so enticing, that doubtlessly more than one fair Dilaram and Leyla played truant that evening after the prescribed hour.

Having at length contrived to make our way through this crowd of worshippers, for such they must have been, we left the Palace far behind us in a few minutes,

id escaped from the noise and even danger which were is present characteristics of its vicinity. Our sturdy oatmen, bending to their oars, soon brought us opposite to the dwelling of the bride, whose whole extent was bright with festooned fires; but my spirit had begun to weary with the perpetual glare, and I rejoiced when we struck out once more into the middle of the channel, and running under the shore of Asia, whose infrequent lights at this point of the stream rather relieved than pained the eye, left far behind us the clamorous merriment of the crowd. We had the moon high above us; the pale and placid moon, which had for many nights been mocked by a radiance more dazzling than her own; while the myriad stars that were twinkling their silver eyes as if in wonder at the scene beneath them, were reflected in the clear water as in a mirror. It was a heavenly night; and as we glided slowly along under the Asian mountains, the song of a hundred nightingales came to us from the groves and gardens of the coast.

The transition was extraordinary; and, after the excitement, the hurry, and the exertion of the previous day, the quiet of the hour fell upon me like a happy dream; and I remember that I shed tears as I lay back upon my cushions, and looked upwards to the calm moon, and listened to the thrilling melody of the midnight woods, and felt the soft wind fanning the hair upon my brow; but they were tears in which there was no bitterness; an outpouring of the wearied spirit that relieved its weight; and when we once more became entangled in the floating crowd, and dashed forward into the blinding light of the fire-girt Palaces, the heart-laugh which went ringing over the water might sometimes have been traced to me.

The mere worldling will sneer at this admission; but those whose misfortune it is to feel deeply will understand the *seeming inconsistency*.

The sixth day was fixed upon for the Ambassadorial Banquet, where the representatives of the mighty ones of the earth were to feast together at the board of the Brother of the Sun, and Emperor of the World. A table, well appointed in the European style, had been prepared; and the banqueting-tent was neatly fitted up with draperies and mirrors.

In the evening a new and distinct feature was added to the entertainments, by the introduction, in the outer court of the palace, of a raised platform, on which a score of performers, clad in half armour, attempted a species of war-dance to the light of a dozen bonfires, which flashed and faded by turns; now revealing the glittering costume of the struggling and struggling combatants, and now enveloping them in a cloud of dense black smoke, as impenetrable as the waves of Erebus. The whole thing was a failure; and the only charm attendant on the exhibition was the singular transition of light and shade that played over the surface of the painted palace, and which produced effects almost magical; now touching the lofty portal with a golden gleam, and then fading away into a faint green, caught from the leafy boughs which fed the fires.

The Turks are decidedly not a dancing nation.

CHAPTER X.

Monotonous Entertainments — Bridal Preparations — Common Interest — Appearance of the Surrounding Country — Ride to Arnautkeui — Sight-loving Ladies — Glances and Greetings — Pictorial Grouping — The Procession — The Trousseau — A Steeple-Chase.

THUS far all had been monotonous from its constant repetition; the same dramas had been enacted, the same lamps had been lighted, and the same banquets had been prepared; but the seventh day was the eve of the Imperial marriage, on which the *trousseau* of the bride was to be borne in state from the Palace of Dolma Batchè, to her own glittering Serai on the Bosphorus. The period was arrived when her slaves, on withdrawing her from the bath, were to braid her long tresses with threads of gold, and strings of pearl, and to stain the palms of her hands and the soles of her feet with henna.

At an early hour the streets of Pera were crowded with arabas and saddle-horses; and my own eager little chesnut was neighing out his impatience under my window before eight o'clock. It was a glorious morning, bright and sunny, without a cloud; and, as I sprang into my saddle, I felt that this was a day on which the Fates had resolved to weave a white thread into the web of my existence.

All the three hundred thousand persons said to have been collected in Constantinople, on the occasion of the *Imperial marriage*, must have been beside

path that morning! I never before beheld such gathering of human beings. There had been divide interests during the previous days of festival: diffe rent points of attraction, which had wrenched asunde the mighty mass of mortality, and fashioned it int divers portions; but on the present occasion, men' minds were all bent upon one object; and this com munity of purpose had collected them together in on vast multitude.

The road was guarded by armed sentinels: an about an arrow's flight from the Military College, o the line from Dolma Batchè to the Palace of the Prin cess, a handsome tent had been pitched for the Am bassadors, which was already thronged. Every risin ground was occupied as far as the eye could reach; an the outline of the road along which the procession wi to pass was marked by clusters of females, seated closely together that from a short distance they ap peared to form one compact body. Behind these we ranged lines of arabas, filled with Turkish, Greek, a Armenian ladies; while on the open space beyon horsemen galloped to and fro; pedestrians who h been too tardy to secure advantageous places, stra gled from spot to spot, in the hope of establishi themselves among some knot of friends; and wate venders, with their long-necked earthen jars a crystal goblets, passed from one party to another, di posing, at an usurious interest, of their tempting me chandize.

As there was no sign of the procession when reached the Ambassadorial tent, we resolved to cant on to Arnautkeui, and amuse ourselves by a survey the wayside groups; and a most interesting ride it w As the Turkish women generally, on any occasi which takes them from their homes at an early ho profit by the circumstance to remain in the open *all day*, none of our party were surprised at the we

ngements that were making on all sides.
ıe of road from Dolma Batchè to the
the Palace of Arnautkeui was edged
's; and wherever a tree afforded the
g so, shawls and rugs had been stretched
n, producing a very cheerful and pretty
umber of Turkish females collected toge-
ccasion may be imagined when I state
of mine, on whose veracity I have the
eliance, assured me that he knew it to be
everal of these sight-loving ladies had
the tiles off the roofs of their houses, in
money enough to enable them to hire an
last two days of the Festival!
s all; for a still more startling fact came
edge from so authentic a source that I
ıt hesitation. A Turkish female in a re-
on of society, having in vain importuned
or the means of witnessing the festivities
suited to her rank, and receiving for an
surance that he was unable to comply
est; finding that she had no hope of suc-
ough her own ingenuity, set herself to
se some expedient by which she might
essary sum; and having taken into her
avourite slave who was to accompany her
f any fortunate discovery, it was at length
en them that she should sell her son, a
of about five years of age. No sooner
; she adjusted her *yashmac* and *feridjhe*,
l by the hand, and, followed by her at-
eded to the house of a slave-merchant,
gain was soon made, and the sum of three
res given in exchange for the little Mussel-

lıment of the husband may be conceived,

when on the morrow he saw his wife seated in an araba in the midst of a bevy of her fair friends, without being able to discover how she had contrived to secure a carriage at so expensive a period. He demanded an explanation in vain; and it was not until he inquired for his child, and detected a mysterious confusion in the manner of his wife, that a suspicion of the fact flashed upon him. He insisted on hearing the truth; and when he at length learnt it, he hurried like a madman to the slave-merchant, and demanded back his boy; but the dealer in human beings had no expensive sympathies; and he only answered the agonized entreaties of the father, by asserting his willingness to deliver up the child when the money which he had given for him was repaid. The wretched parent had it not to give; and finding that his misery produced no effect upon the slave-merchant, he hastened in his anguish to the Seraskier, who, having heard the tale, summoned to his presence the mother, the child, and the merchant; and after having ascertained that the fact was precisely as it had been stated to him, he expressed to the former his horror of the unnatural deed of which she had been guilty, and received for answer that she had acted under the firm conviction that her husband had merely refused to supply her with money from an impulse of avarice; and that, being devoted to his child, he would immediately purchase him back. The apology, poor as it was, was admitted; and the Seraskier, finding that the father really did not possess the means of recovering his boy, generously paid the price of his liberty, and restored him to his parents; only cautioning the mother not to attempt a second sale of the same description, as, in the event of such an occurrence she should herself be her child's ransom.

Hear this, ye Englishwomen, who have been accustomed to believe that the Turkish females are alway

lock and key—Hear this: and then imagine to
a pitch they carry their love of dissipation and
ise.

t the least amusing part of the ride was the mul-
e of recognitions and salutations consequent upon
progress through the crowd. Here a veiled lady
ted us from her gilded araba; and there a laughing
ck saluted us from beneath his wayside tent. On
side, we were joined by a rival party of mounted
anks; and on the other we were beckoned aside by
ne pretty friend, who was seated under the shade
a cluster of overhanging branches.

Had there been nothing further to anticipate, the
here sight of the great congregation of human beings
ollected together that morning, would of itself have
been a highly interesting spectacle.

Probably in no other country upon earth can you encounter such groups as you do in Turkey; they always appear as though they had been arranged by an artist; and I find myself on every occasion just about to describe them, when I remember that I have already done so more than once; and am compelled, however reluctantly, to forego the inclination.

Having reached the crest of the hill above Arnaut-keui, we turned our horses' heads once more towards Dolma Batchè; and had almost reached the Palace when the sound of a military band came cheerfully on the wind, and we were obliged to gallop off, in order to secure an elevated station whence we could conveniently witness the passage of the procession.

We were fortunate enough to possess ourselves of a spot of ground that overhung the road, along which we reined up our horses in line, and awaited the arrival of the pageant.

The Band led the way, playing the Sultan's Grand March upon their wind instruments, and the military followed *in good order; it* was a squadron of the élite

of the Turkish army, the cavalry of the Imperial Guard, whose several troops are distinguished by the different colour of their horses. I counted four negro officers as they passed us.

The troops were succeeded by fifty field officers, the General Staff of the empire, well mounted and attended; and they, in their turn, gave place to twenty great officers of the Imperial household. With these individuals commenced the interest and Orientalism of the spectacle; the flashing diamonds upon their breasts and hands, and the glittering housings of their horses, relieving the monotonous slowness with which they progressed. This splendid train was followed by fourteen led mules, laden with packages, covered with the gold and silver stuffs of Broussa, and secured upon the animals with cords of silk. The packages contained the velvet and satin mattresses intended for the harem of the Princess, and all the minor articles necessary to her household; which are supplied by the Sultan, even to the feather-brush that beats aside the flies from the dinner-table.

Next came twelve beautiful white mules, magnificently housed, and led by pages dressed in a scarlet uniform: a present to the Princess from her Imperial Father.

Nine carriages of silver net-work, roofed and draperied with coloured silk, each drawn by four bay horses, followed next in line; and through the transparent lattices glittered the costly sofa-furniture of tissue and embroidery; the velvet cushions, and the golden fringes which were to adorn the saloons of the bridal Palace.

After these came three open droskys, with pages running at the bridal-rein of the superb leaders, who seemed impatient of the pace at which they travelled, and scattered the foam from their mouths as they champed their embossed bits; and these were overlaid

ths of crimson velvet fringed with gold, on as displayed a collection of richly-chased silver

followed five other carriages, drawn like the ng by four stately horses, containing trunks d with coloured velvets and gold and silver and clamped and hinged with wrought silver, with the linen of the Imperial Bride.

xt came forward what, at the first glance, seen was through the cloud of dust raised by the car- s, seemed to be a moving tulip-bed, extending as the eye could reach. Nor was the illusion an strained one; for this portion of the procession ed to be a train of one hundred and fifty men, h attended by a page, and bearing upon his head asket of wicker-work, covered with gold tissue, and mounted by a raised dome of coloured gauze, de- ated with bunches of artificial flowers. Beneath se transparent screens might be seen the toilette of young Princess; her golden ewers, and jewel- dded basins—her diamond-covered essence-boxes, d gemmed water-vases—her glittering porcelain, emerald-mounted hair-brushes—and all the costly ds which litter so magnificently the chambers of great. Golden cages, filled with stuffed birds— aid caskets, heavy with perfumes—musical instru- nts, rich with laboured gold and jewels—salvers, -heaped with gold coins—and ten thousand brilliant s, if not without a name, yet almost without a use, lowed in their turn; and then came pyramids of eetmeats, glittering like fruits which had suddenly n hardened into gems; and trays of shawls, each a fortune in itself, enveloped separately in wrap- s of coloured gauze, tied with long loops of ribbon.

But the most gorgeous display was yet to come; broidered handkerchiefs whose gold and silver eads were *mingled with* silks of many hues, and

whose texture was almost as impalpable as the
samer — jackets of velvet worked on the sleeves
breasts with precious stones — trousers sprinkled
stars of gold and silver — *anteries* of white silk, wro
with coloured jewels — robes of satin powdered
seed-pearl — slippers as diminutive as that of Ci
cella, fringed with floss silk, and powdered with ru
and finally, sixteen bearers, balancing upon their h
cages of silver wire, resting on cushions of cri
velvet, whereon were displayed the bridal diam
The sunshine was flashing on them as they passe
and at times it was impossible to look upon them.

It seemed as though the trees of the Serai must
dropped diamonds, to supply the profusion of the
perial Father. It is impossible to describe them
diadems and bracelets, the necklaces and wreath
rings and clasps: suffice it that every female arti
dress or ornament, for which this costly stone cou
made available, was here in its magnificence;
assuredly the gifts of the Queen of Sheba to
Solomon must have sunk into insignificance befo
bridal *trousseau* of the Princess Mihirmàh — "
Glory of the Moon!"

Forty mounted negroes appointed to her hous
followed, like demons of darkness, on the footste
the flashing treasure which I have just described;
I can safely declare that I never beheld so hideo
assemblage of human beings. The diamonds
quite secure, I should imagine, from all depred
under the charge of these frightful guardians —
gnomes, gloating over the produce of the "dark
mines," where no light could intrude in which
might mirror their own ugliness; and His Su
Highness, or rather his Master of the Ceremonie
peared to have been of the same opinion; for alth
a guard preceded the procession, none followe
and the termination of the pageant came so ab

upon me after its greatest splendour, that I felt as though some accident had detained the remaining actors in the show, and that something more must follow; but as, after the lapse of a moment, I discovered that all was really over, there was nothing for it but a steeple chase "over bank, bush, and briar," in order to get once more in advance of the procession, and thus secure a second view.

On this we accordingly determined; and after a gallop over ploughed fields, and a few leaps over sundry intervening fences and ditches, we found ourselves on the height above Arnautkeui, just as the gorgeous train was beginning to descend the hill.

CHAPTER XI.

The Bridal Day—Ceremony of Acceptance—The Crowd—The Kislar Agha and the Court Astrologer—Order of the Procession—The Russian Coach—The Pasha and the Attachés—The Seraskier—Wives of the Pashas—The Sultan and the Georgian Slave.

THE morrow was the bridal day, when the fortunate Saïd Pasha was to receive his Imperial Bride beneath his own roof, and to look upon her for the first time. As yet he had not had even a glimpse of her through her *yashmac*, their only interview having taken place on his arrival from the Dardanelles, when he had been summoned to the palace to throw himself at her feet, and to return thanks for the honour she was about to confer upon him. This interview, if such indeed a meeting may be termed, in which one of the parties only has a sight of the other, is one of the ceremonies *à la riguer* in the Imperial marriages of the East.

The bridegroom elect is led into a room, at whose upper extremity a door stands ajar; and behind this sits the lady splendidly habited, and surrounded by a train of slaves. A small portion of her embroidered *antery* is suffered to pass the opening of the door; and a side lattice, veiled with thin gauze, enables her to take a view of her suitor as he approaches; which he does slowly, and upon his knees, the whole length of the apartment. On arriving near the "Door of *Light*" which conceals the Princess, he thrice bows his forehead to the earth, ere he ventures to implore a

ratification of his hopes. The officious Kislar Agha replies for the bride; and after a second prostration, the Pasha returns thanks "in a neat speech;" and with the permission of the same personage, he then raises to his lips the hem of the Imperial garment, and retires in the same humble posture in which he entered.

The *on dit* at the Palace whispered the disappointment of the bride on the present occasion, that the choice of her Imperial father had not fallen on Mustapha Pasha of Adrianople, whom she had once seen by accident, and by whose personal beauty she had been much attracted. It is, nevertheless, possible that this glimpse of her destined bridegroom reconciled her to her destiny; for, as it is the appearance only which Turkish females generally attach any importance to in their husbands, the young Pasha of the Dardanelles could safely compete with all his rivals, being really a very handsome and intelligent-looking person.

Had I not known that such a thing was altogether impossible, I should have said, when I pulled up my panting horse on the height above the palace, that the same groups occupied the same spots where I had seen them on the previous day. The scene did not appear to have altered in a single feature. I saw the same smiling faces, and received the same kindly greetings; laughed at the same dirty, stupid-looking sentinels, and bought a cool draught from the same water-vender for a twenty-*para* piece. Altogether, I had some difficulty in persuading myself that I had really talked politics with a hot-headed Englishman, theology with a Greek Papas, and nonsense with a Sardinian secretary; and moreover had slept through a long night, since I last stood upon that sunny hill, and looked far and wide upon the same wilderness of human *beings*.

The procession of the preceding day had been announced to start from Dolma Batchè at eight o'clock; but the mid-day muezzin had been called from the minarets, ere the first trumpeter issued from the portal. Profiting, therefore, by our experience, we partook of a quiet breakfast on the present occasion, ere we sped to the scene of action; and we had judged rightly in so doing, for we were yet considerably in advance of the bridal train. Nevertheless, it is certain that the baggage-mules and the treasure-carriages required more time to prepare them for the journey than the Imperial Bride, and her attendant train of ladies; for the Kislar Agha was yet girding on his sword with all the quiet precision of a man who has no cause for haste, when a negro of the Seraï rushed into the apartment, and startled him with the intelligence that her Highness was not only ready to start, but actually in the Great Saloon of the Harem, waiting for him to precede her to her carriage. At this announcement, the portly personage suffered his weapon to fall from his hands; and tossing his arms above his head, he filled the apartment with his outcries.

"Who has done this? Who has insidiously counselled this haste? Where is the traitor who would destroy the Imperial Daughter of our noble Sultan? (May his beard be white!) It yet wants ten minutes of the time appointed by the astrologer—the lucky moment is not come—and until it arrives, she shall not set her foot without the palace, were it ten times her bridal day."

At length, however, the auspicious moment really did arrive, when the Kislar Agha was himself the first to hasten the departure of the Princess. The procession was the very triumph of mystery. All the high-born beauties of Stamboul were to pass us by, *and we* were only to imagine the loveliness on which *we were to* have no opportunity of looking. The

Sultan's band opened the march, and executed, with great precision, a piece of martial music, composed for the occasion by their talented leader Donizetti; a regiment of cavalry followed, and was succeeded in its turn by a gorgeous train of Pashas, among whom rode the bridegroom; and then came the European carriage of the Sultan, drawn by four bay horses, each led by a page in a scarlet and gold uniform. This was succeeded by the Imperial State Coach, of silver gilt, the raised cornice above the roof inlaid with cornelians, agates, and jaspers, the magnificent gift of the Emperor of Russia to his Turkish ally—the gilded lattices, through which gleamed the jealous curtains of rose-coloured silk, were closely shut; and the Imperial Bride was the sole tenant of the costly vehicle. This carriage, which was drawn by six stately horses from the personal stud of the Autocrat, was followed by that in which the Princess had been accustomed to drive on state occasions; the windows were thrown back, and the curtains undrawn—it was empty. Next came the Sultana-Mother, the Princess Salihè, and the younger sister of the bride, a sweet-looking girl of eleven or twelve years of age, who sat beside her veiled relatives in a heavy head-dress of black velvet, overcharged with diamonds; but whose fair young face laughed out in loveliness beneath the hideous disfigurement. These were succeeded by a second Russian carriage, drawn by four horses similar to those in the state coach, an offering of Russian policy to Achmet Pasha, whose Buyuk Hanoum was within, attended by three female slaves.

The train amounted in all to forty-seven carriages and four; many of them tenanted by five and even six individuals, whose coquettishly-arranged *yashmacs* afforded, at times, something more than a glimpse of their fair faces; a fact of which the negro guard

bout an inch thick—to swallow a glass of iced
de in the saddle, and to gallop back, under a
sun, to their respective homes.

Pasha, on the occasion of an imperial mar-
ends, on a stated day, his Buyuk Hanoum, or
al wife, to the palace, attended by two slaves,
ratulate the Princess on her approaching nup-
nd these are the ladies who subsequently form
ption circle at her new home. At the visit of
ion, when the Sultan receives them on the
his august daughter, they are presented by the
ent sovereign with an *antery*, jacket, and trou-
f rich stuff, a pair of embroidered slippers,
diamond ring; the same articles, but fitted in
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as the presentation took place, but the Buyuk
m was received with all the honours due to the
l rank of her husband, and departed laden with
h gifts of Imperial generosity.

* *Minister* for Foreign Affairs.

appeared so well aware, that on some suggestion from one of them to a Pasha, who rode immediately in front of the Imperial carriage, on the second apparition of our party by the wayside (which, *soit dit en passant*, must have been sufficiently attractive to the veiled beauties, being principally composed of *attachés* to the different embassies), his Excellency addressed himself to me in very tolerable French, and told me that, although I was individually at liberty to accompany the procession to the palace gates, if I wished to do so, he must request that the gentlemen would not attempt to advance further. But the prohibition was more readily uttered than obeyed; and we only just waited for the first glimpse of the fifty negroes who formed the rear-guard, ere we were off again, as fast as our generous horses would carry us.

And well should we have been repaid when we pulled up midway of the steep descent leading to the palace, had it only been by the spectacle of the wily old Seraskier, who rode beside the window of the state coach, in a state of admirably got-up agitation; first shouting to the troop of attendants who hung on to the wheels, like a man in the last agony; and then modulating his voice to the extremest gentleness of which it was susceptible, to implore of the imperial bride not to imagine that there existed the slightest danger; half the fuss which he was making meanwhile being more than sufficient to satisfy her that she was on the eve of being hurled over the precipice.

On her arrival in the court of the palace, Said Pasha, on his knees beside the carriage, received her in his arms, and carried her into the great saloon of the Harem; the ladies of the Court, who had the *entrée*, followed in succession; the golden gates were closed; and the excluded had nothing more to do *than to* shake the dust from their garments—and truly

was about an inch thick—to swallow a glass of iced emonade in the saddle, and to gallop back, under a burning sun, to their respective homes.

Each Pasha, on the occasion of an imperial marriage, sends, on a stated day, his Buyuk Hanoum, or principal wife, to the palace, attended by two slaves, to congratulate the Princess on her approaching nuptials; and these are the ladies who subsequently form the reception circle at her new home. At the visit of felicitation, when the Sultan receives them on the part of his august daughter, they are presented by the munificent sovereign with an *antery*, jacket, and trousers, of rich stuff, a pair of embroidered slippers, and a diamond ring; the same articles, but fitted in value to their station, being bestowed also on their attendants. In this magnificent costume they are expected to appear on the bridal day; and on their departure from the presence, they placed their own gifts in the hands of the Kislar Agha, which are always of the extremest richness that the means of the Pasha will permit.

An amusing anecdote is connected with this ceremony, which, being authentic, I may as well relate. The imperial presentation negatives the necessity of *yashmacs*, and thus Sultan Mahmoud enjoys the exclusive privilege of forming a judgment on the taste of his Pashas. On the marriage of the Princess Salihè, the Reiss Effendi* forwarded to the imperial presence the mother of his sons, a lady to whom nature had not originally been lavish of her gifts, and who had subsequently lost an eye during an attack of plague. His Sublime Highness was observed to fidget upon his sofa as the presentation took place, but the Buyuk Hanoum was received with all the honours due to the exalted rank of her husband, and departed laden with the rich gifts of Imperial generosity.

* *Minister* for Foreign Affairs.

On the morrow, however, a caïque, impelled by three rowers, and freighted with a closely-veiled female, under the guard of a party of the negroes of the Seraï, pushed off from the Palace of Dolma Batchè, and ran alongside the terrace of that of the Minister, where the lady was landed; when, on being conducted into the presence of the Reiss Effendi, her veil was withdrawn, and she proved to be a lovely Georgian slave, of about sixteen years of age, in all the first burst of her young beauty — a present to the noble from his imperial master; accompanied by a command, that should another occasion occur in which the wives of the Pashas were required to appear before the Sultan, the Reiss Effendi would cause the dark-eyed Georgian to act as the representative of a lady, whose age and infirmities must render all court ceremonials extremely irksome to her feelings.

Of course, the lovely slave was one of the bridal train of the Princess Mihirmàh.

CHAPTER XII.

ing—Scholastic Processions—Change in the Valley
lique's Grave—The Palace of Eyoub—The State
—Return to Pera.

of days of rest succeeded to the marriage
nd during that time all the tents which had
height above Dolma Batchè were transferred
ey of the Sweet Waters, whither they were
the tumblers, rope-dancers, and jugglers,
lelighted the crowd in the purlieus of the
alace. A new rejoicing was to succeed the
; the two younger sons of the Sultan, and
and children, belonging to every class of the
pulation, from the Pashas to the charcoal-
the metropolis and its vicinity, were to be
l with much pomp at Kahaitchana. A
building, shaped like a crescent, and capable
ng the whole number, had been erected
upper kiosque, and near the border of the
oss which a new bridge had been thrown;
a was lined throughout with rich hangings,
shioned, and presented a very gay and pretty
.

tan entertained the Imperial family at his
he Barbyses; the Pashas gave daily dinners
ts; and there was not an araba in Constan-
Pera that was not in requisition.

ssing to Eyoub in our caïque, we hired a
, *in which* we drove to the valley. The

scene was a very animated one; lines of coffee-tents clung to the sides of the heights; groups of women, seated on their mats, were scattered over the green-sward; itinerant fruit merchants wandered to and fro with their strawberries neatly arranged in small baskets wreathed with oak leaves, and their cherries heaped in pyramids; *mohalibé* and *yahourt* were to be seen on all sides: the little fountains of the sherbet-venders were tinkling like distant sheep-bells; and, high above the heads of the crowd, a rope-dancer was balancing himself in mid-air with his crimson satin vestment flaring in the hot sunshine.

One pretty feature in the scene was the constant succession of scholastic processions; each mosque sending its little troop, headed by an Imam, to parade the valley, and to chant a prayer for the preservation of the Sultan's sons; after which all the children of the Turkish, Greek, Armenian, Catholic, and Jewish schools accompanied by their masters, passed before the Sultan, and shared in the festivities, to which they had been especially invited. Nor was the appearance of the Turkish children who assisted at the ceremony less interesting; as they all, save those belonging to the more distinguished families, who wore a vast quantity of gold embroidery about their coats and fèzes, were dressed in a kind of uniform, provided for them by the Sultan; and had their long hair plaited in innumerable braids, and woven together with gold threads, sometimes to a quarter of a yard in breadth.

For the first hour I was exceedingly amused. The Barbyses was alive with caïques; the air was loud with music and laughter; the greensward was crowded with arabas and idlers; and every shady tree had a coil beneath its boughs. But I soon wearied of the coil and confusion by which I was surrounded; the green, free *quiet* valley had lost all its charm; I could scarcely *recognize* my favourite spots; nor was it until the sun

of twilight, when the illuminated glories of the port flashed out like a circle of fire in the distance, that I became reconciled. A million of twinkling stars were relieving the deep blue of the summer sky; while here and there erections, of many-coloured light, rose flashing out amid the leafy boughs of the crowd-invaded glen. Pashas came and went in their noiseless caïques; and the low wind, which heaved the elastic branches of the water-willow, and came sighing along the ripple of the sweet river, rendered the valley by night a scene of enchantment.

I wandered to the grave of the Odalique: the moonlight was resting upon the record-stone; and a nightingale, seated amid the branches of the overhanging tree, was breathing out its song of mournful melody; it was far away from the idle throng of revellers, and I was weak enough to be glad that it was so.

The night was so lovely, that we dismissed our araba, and determined on returning in a caïque as far as the Palace of Eyoub, where I had been invited by the Princess Azmè to pass the night; but, on arriving there, we found that the Sultana and the principal ladies of her household had been detained by the Sultan, and would not return until the following day.

As, however, I was fearful that the opportunity of seeing this palace might not recur, from the fact that the Princess never inhabits it save on occasions of festival at Kahaitchana, when she profits by its vicinity to the valley, I availed myself of the offer of the house steward to show me over the state apartments, which are entirely unfurnished, but in themselves extremely magnificent. The screen of light that extended along the whole front of the building cast its glare through the unshuttered windows, and was reflected back by the gilded walls and glittering cornices. The decorations throughout are heavy, but of the greatest richness, *and by far the most Oriental* in their character, of

any that I had yet seen. The palace was built by Sultan Selim, and its situation is beautiful. What was formerly the reception-room of that unfortunate Sovereign is entirely lined with gilding, the walls being niched, and overhung with stalactited cornices similar to those which decorate many of our old cathedral tombs; and the weight of this elaborate ornament is relieved by a ceiling of faint blue, sprinkled with silver stars. But the absence of furniture, and the vast extent of the building, gave an air of desolation and discomfort to its whole appearance, which even the well matted and curtained rooms that had been temporarily fitted up for the use of the Sultana's harem failed to overcome; and, consequently, when I had satisfied my curiosity, I pleaded the absence of her Highness, and those individuals of her suite with whom I was acquainted, as my apology for not availing myself of her flattering invitation; and, re-entering our caïque, we dashed out into the centre of the port; and after contemplating for a time its temporary glories, were landed at the *Echelle des Morts*, and, passing along beneath the moon-touched and sighing cypresses of the grave yard, soon found ourselves at Pera.

CHAPTER XIII.

Departure for Broussa—Rocky Coast—Moudania—The Custom House—Translation of the word *Backschich*—The Archbishop of Broussa—The Boatman's House—The Dead and the Living—Laughable Cavalcade—Dense Mists—Fine Country—Flowers, Birds, and Butterflies—The Coffee Hut—The Turkish Woman—Broussa in the Distance—The Dried-up Fountain—Immense Plains—Bohemian Gipsies—Mountain Streams—Turkish Washerwomen—Fine Old Wall—The Jews' Quarter—The Turkish Kiosque—Oriental Curiosity—A Dream of Home.

HAVING decided on visiting Broussa, we hired an island caïque with four stout rowers, and provided ourselves with plenty of coats and cloaks, a basket of provisions, and a few volumes of French classics; and thus we set sail from the Golden Horn on the last day of May, leaving Stamboul all splendour and sunshine.

A brisk northerly wind carried us rapidly out into the Propontis; all sails were set; my father and myself comfortably established among "the wraps," our Greek servant esconced between two baskets, the steersman squatted upon the poop of the boat grinning applause, and revealing in his satisfaction a set of teeth as white as ivory; and, ere long, excepting this last, our attendant, and myself, every soul on board was asleep.

In less than two hours, Stamboul had vanished like a vision, and could only be traced by the line of heavy mist which skirted the horizon. The coast of Asia Minor was darkening as we advanced, wearing the dense drapery of vapour woven by the excessive heat; the mountain chain, fantastic in outline, stretched far as the *eye could reach, and* we had already left behind

us the two quaint rocks which form so peculiar an object from the heights above Constantinople. But here the wind failed us altogether; the slumbering caiquejies were awakened, the oars were plied, and we moved over the Sea of Marmora, of which I had such horrible memories, from the night of pain and peril that I had passed upon it on my way to Turkey, as though we had been traversing a lake.

Twilight darkened over us thus; and then a light breeze tempted us again to set the sails, and we glided along smoothly, skirting the rocky coast until we reached the point opposite Brousa: which, sloping rapidly downwards to the beach, suddenly revealed to us the glorious moon, that was rising broad and red immediately on our track, and tracing a line of light along the waves which gleamed like gold.

After having sated myself with the bright moon, the myriad stars, and the mysterious mountains, at whose base the waves had hollowed caverns, through which they dashed with a noise like thunder, and once or twice almost deluded me into a belief that I could distinguish the sound of human voices issuing from their depths, I at length yielded to the excessive fatigue that overpowered me; and, wrapping myself closely in my mantle, I stretched myself along the bottom of the caique, and did not again awaken until the boatmen announced our arrival at Moudania.

It was an hour past midnight, and not a sound came to us from the town. A score of Arabian barks were anchored off the shore, whose seaward houses overhang the water; the white minarets of the mosques were in strong relief upon the tall, dark, thickly-wooded mountains which rose immediately behind them, and whence the song of the nightingales swept sadly and sweetly over the water; and had we not been drenched with the heavy dew that had fallen during the night, I should have been quite satisfied to remain until day-

light in the caïque, which soon entered a little creek in the centre of the town.

But, previously to casting anchor, we were obliged to pull considerably higher up the gulf in order to show ourselves at the custom house, and to exhibit our *Teskarè*, or Turkish passport, as well as to submit our two travelling portmanteaux, and our provision-hamper, to the inspection of the examining officer. After a vast deal of knocking and calling, an individual was at length awakened, who came yawning into the caïque with a paper-lantern in his hand, and his eyes only half open; and who, after looking drowsily about him, murmured out "*backschich*," and prepared to depart; upon which a few piastres were given to him, and he returned on shore.

The word *backschich* is the first of which a traveller learns the meaning in Turkey; it signifies fee, or present. The Pasha receives *backschich* for procuring a place or a pension for some petitioner: then, of course, it is a present, and precisely as welcome as it is unexpected: the boy who picks up your glove or your whip, as you ride along the street, demands *backschich*—he must be fee'd for his civility. Nothing is to be done in the country without *backschich*.

On entering the creek, we despatched the servant and one of the caïquejhes to the house of the Greek Archbishop of Broussa, to whom we had brought a letter, and who had removed to the coast for the benefit of sea-bathing; but his Holiness was from home, and there was consequently no ingress for us. In this dilemma, for hotels there are none, we had no alternative but to accept for a few hours the hospitality of one of the boatmen, until we could procure horses to carry us on to Broussa; and we consequently made our début in Asia Minor in an apartment up two flights of rickety stairs, walled with mud, and shivering *under our footsteps*. But it suffices to state that

the caïquejhe was a Greek, for it to be understood at once by every Eastern traveller, that the house was cleanly to perfection; and our reception by the hostess, even at that untoward hour, courteous and attentive.

Before the servant had brought the luggage up stairs, my father, worn out by fatigue, was sound asleep upon the divan; and, when the attendant had withdrawn, I also gladly prepared myself for the enjoyment of a few hours' repose; and, casting off my shoes, and winding a shawl about my head, I took possession of the opposite side of the sofa, and should soon have followed his example, when I was aroused by the light foot of the caïquejhe's wife in the apartment, who, opening a small chest, cast over me a sheet and coverlet as white as snow, and then retired as quietly as she came.

But that sheet and coverlet changed the whole tide of my feelings—the chest in which they had been kept was of cypress wood—they were strongly impregnated with its odour—I was exhausted by fatigue and excitement—and a thousand visions of death and the grave came over me in the half dreamy state in which I lay, that by no means added to my comfort.

With a morbidity of imagination to which I am unhappily subject, I followed up at length one fantastic and gloomy image, until I began to believe myself in a state of semi-existence, habiting with the dead; but the delusion was brief, for I was soon as disagreeably convinced that my affair was at present altogether with the living. I had been warned that Broussa was as celebrated for its bugs as for its baths, but I had never contemplated such martyrdom at Moudania! I sprang from the sofa, shook my habit with all my strength, and then, folding my fur pelisse for a pillow, I stretched myself on the carpet, and left the luxuries of the cushioned divan to my father, who, fortunately for him, proved to be a sounder sleeper than myself.

At five o'clock, the horses came to the door; and

partaking sparingly of the provisions which we brought with us, we drank a cup of excellent ee, prepared by our hostess, and descended to the et; where my European saddle, by no means a nmon sight at Moudania, had collected a crowd of ers.

Had Crulkshank been by when we started, we should suredly not have escaped his pungent pencil. My ither led the van, mounted on a high-peaked country addle, with a saddle-cloth of tarnished embroidery, nd a pair of shovel stirrups; I followed, perched above a coarse woollen blanket, with my habit tucked up to preserve it from the stream of filth that was sluggishly making its way through the street; after me came our Greek servant, sitting upon a pile of cloaks and great coats, holding his pipe in one hand, and his umbrella in the other; and he was succeeded in his turn by the *serudjhe* who had charge of our luggage, and who rode between the portmanteaux, balancing the provision basket before him, dressed in a huge black turban, ample drawers of white cotton, and a vest of Broussa silk. The procession was completed by three attendants on foot, the owners of the horses; and thus we defiled through the narrow and dirty streets of Moudania, on our way to the ancient capital of the Ottoman Empire.

For a time the mists were so dense that, although we had the sea sand beneath the hoofs of our horses, we could not distinguish the water; and, as we turned suddenly to the right, and traversed a vineyard all alive with labourers, the vapours were rolling off the sides of the hills immediately in front of us. Feathered even to their summits with trees, they appeared to rest against the thick folds of heavy white mist in which they had been enveloped during the night, and presented the most fantastic shapes. I never traversed a more lovely country; vineyards were succeeded by

mulberry plantations and olive groves, gardens of cucumber plants, beet root, and melons, stretches of rich corn land, and immense plains, hemmed in by gigantic mountains, of which the unredeemed portions were a perfect garden.

I have spoken, in my little work on Portugal, of the beauty of the wild flowers in that country, but I found that those of Asia even transcended them. Delicate flowering shrubs, herbs of delicious perfume, and blossoms of every dye, were about our path: the bright lilac-coloured gum-cistus, with a drop of gold in its centre; the snowy privet, with its scented cone; the wild hollyhock; the bindweed, as transparent and as variously coloured as in an European parterre; the mallow, with its pale petals of pink and white; the turquoise, as blue as a summer sky, and as large as a field daisy; the foxglove, springing from amid the rocky masses by the wayside, like virtue struggling with adversity, and seeming doubly beautiful from the contrast; the bright yellow blossom which owes to its constantly vibrating petals the vulgar name of "woman's tongue;" the sweet-scented purple starch-flower; wild roses, woodbine, and, above all, the passion-flower, somewhat smaller than that cultivated in Europe, but retaining perfectly its pale tints and graceful character, were mingled with a thousand others that were new to me.

Upon one spot on this plain I saw the richest clump of vegetation that I ever met with in my life. It was a small mound near the road side, covered with dwarf aloes and arum; I made one of the *serudjhes* tear up a plant of the latter for me to examine, and it was perfectly gigantic; the blossom measured eighteen inches from the base of the calyx to the extremity of the petal; the colour was a deep, rich ruby, and the stem was five or six feet in height. I need scarcely add

that the stench which it emitted was intolerable, a
we were obliged to rub our hands with wild cam
mile to rid ourselves of it.

The butterflies were small, sober-coloured, a
scarce; but the birds which surrounded us we
various and interesting; the bullfinch, the elega
black-cap, the nightingale, making the air vocal; a
the cuckoo, whose sharp, quick note cut shrilly throu
the sweet song with which it could not assimilate; t
skylark, revelling in light, and drinking in the su
shine; the partridge, half hidden amid the corn,
winging its way along the valley, kept us consta
company; while the majestic storks sailed over c
heads, with their long thin legs folded back, and th
long thin necks stretched forward, steering themsel
by their feet; or remained, gravely standing near t
road side, eyeing us as we passed with all the co
fidence of impunity.

After rising a tolerably steep hill, we descended ir
a plain of vast extent, through which brawled a ra
river crossed by a bridge of considerable span, where
a herd of buffaloes were cooling themselves; son
lying on their sides wallowing in the mud, and oth
standing up to their noses in water, and defying t
fierce beams of a sun under which we were almo
fainting. As I pulled up for an instant to obser
them, a kingfisher darted from a clump of underwo
overhanging the bank, glittering in the light, a
looking as though it had pilfered the rainbow.

Having passed the plain, we again descended, a
stopped mid-way of the mountain before a little l
of withered boughs, tenanted by a superb-looki
Turk, who dispensed coffee and pipes to travelle
beside the hut a handsome fountain of white gran
poured forth a copious stream of sparkling rock wat
and on the other side of the road a very fine wal

tree overshadowed a bank covered with grass. Upon this bank the servant spread our mat; and, having removed the large flapping hats of leghorn which we wore, we revelled in the dense shade and refreshing coolness; nor were we the only individuals to whom they had proved welcome, for a portion of the space was already occupied by a Turkish woman, whose husband was in the coffee-hut, and who accepted readily a part of our luncheon, although she could not partake of it with us, the presence of my father preventing the removal of her *yashmac*. I felt glad that she received the offer in the spirit in which it was made, for the Turks are so universally hospitable that my obligations to them on this score are weighty; and, singularly enough, this was the first occasion on which I had ever had an opportunity of returning the compliment.

We lingered on this sweet spot nearly an hour, and then, continuing our descent, and crossing a little stream at its foot, we clomb a lofty mountain, whence we looked down upon a scene of surpassing beauty. Before us towered a chain of rocks, whose peaks were clothed with snow; and beneath us spread a valley dotted with mulberry and walnut trees, green with corn and vineyards, and gay with scattered villages. At the base of the highest mountain lay Broussa, and even in the distance we could distinguish the gleaming out of the white buildings from among the dense foliage which embosomed them.

From this point a new feature of beauty was added to the landscape: fountains rose on all sides, the overflowing of whose basins had frequently worn a deep channel across the road, where the waters rushed glittering and brawling along. With the form of one of these fountains I was particularly struck; it was *evidently of* considerable antiquity, and was oversha-

by a majestic lime-tree, whose long branches
ed far across the road; but its source was dried,
was rapidly falling to decay.
esitated for an instant whether I should sketch
ountain, or again lend to it for an instant the
that it had lost. I decided on the latter alter-
e; and seating myself upon the edge of the basin,
stily scratched the following stanzas in my note-
k.

THE DRIED-UP FOUNTAIN.

The emblem of a heart o'er-tried,
I stand amid the waste;
My sparkling source has long been dried;
And the worn pilgrim, to whose ear
My gushing stream was once so dear,
Passes me by in haste.

No wild bird dips its weary wing
In my pure waters now;
No blushing flowers in beauty spring,
Fed by the gentle dews, that erst
Taught each fair blossom how to burst
With a yet brighter glow.

The nightingale responds no more
Since my glad sound was hushed,
As she was wont to do of yore,
To the continuous flow, which oft,
When leaves were rife, and winds were soft,
Like her own music gushed.

Still wave the lime-boughs, whose sweet shade
Was o'er my waters cast,
When high in heaven the sunbeams played;
But o'er my dried-up basin now
Vainly is spread each leafy bough;
It but recalls the past—

And thus the human heart no less,
In its young ardent years,
***Pours forth its* gushing tenderness**

Freely, as though time could not fling
A gloom around each lovely thing,
And turn its smiles to tears.

And thus, like me, it too must prove
How soon the spell goes by;
How falsehood follows fast on love,
Treachery on trust, and guile on truth;
Until the heart, so full in youth,
In age is waste and dry.

Worn heart, and dried-up fount—for ye
The world is fair in vain;
Birds sing, boughs wave, and winds are free;
But song, nor shade, nor breath, can more
Your joyful gush of life restore—
It will not flow again!

A great stretch of road, after we had passed the exhausted fountain, traversed another of those immense plains for which this part of the country is celebrated. No monotony, however, renders them irksome to the traveller; on the contrary, they are characteristic and various in the extreme. Grass land, gay with tents, pitched for the accommodation of those who guard the droves of horses grazing in their vicinity; camels browzing on the young shoots of the forest trees; and flocks of goats as wild and as agile as the chamois,—keep the eye and the imagination alike employed.

Now and then a native traveller, mounted on his high-peaked saddle, with a brace of silver-mounted pistols and a yataghan peeping from amid the folds of the shawl that binds his waist; his ample turban descending low upon his brow, and his yellow boots resting upon a pair of shovel stirrups; his velvet jacket slung at his back, and the long pendent sleeves *of his striped* silk robe hanging to his bridle-rein,—*passes you by*. His horse is, nine times out of ten,

one remove from a pony, but it can go like
id; and, as it tosses its well-formed head, ex-
its eager nostril, and scours along with its long
reaming in the wind, you are immediately re-
ed that both the animal and his rider are, although
tely, of Tartar origin. Of course, the horse has
harm against the Evil Eye, as well as his master;
, moreover, perhaps, his brow-band, or breeching,
tily embroidered with small cowries, and his sad-
-cloth gay with the tarnished glories of past splen-
ur.

At times you are met by a party of Greek *serudjhes* turning to Moudania with a band of hired horses, which, although they have probably tired the patience and wearied the whip of their strange riders, are now racing along amid the shouts and laughter of their owners, as though they were engaged in a steeple-chase. A cloud of dust in the distance heralds the approach of a train of rudely-shaped waggons, frequently formed of wicker-work, drawn by oxen or buffaloes, and generally laden with tobacco; while, nearer the city, gangs of donkeys, carrying neatly-packed piles of mulberry boughs for the use of the silk-worms, which form the staple trade of the neighbourhood, complete the moving picture.

The river which traverses the plain is spanned by a bridge of five beautifully-formed arches. When we passed, it was so shrunken that an active leaper might have cleared it at a bound; but the current was frightfully rapid, and the channel, heaped with flints and sand, had evidently been insufficient to contain its volume during the winter, as the land, for a wide space on either side, bore traces of having been flooded.

On the edge of the plain stands the fountain of Adzim Tzèsmèssi, overshadowed by three fine map trees, and in itself exceedingly picturesque. A rude constructed kiosque, raised a couple of steps from

ground, and surrounded by seats, protects the small basin of granite into which the water rises, and whence it afterwards escapes by pipes into two exterior reservoirs: that which is shaded by the maples being reserved for the use of travellers, and the other for the supply of cattle.

Here, of course, we found a caféjhe, surrounded by a group of smokers; and procured some excellent coffee and cherries.

During our halt, a party of Bohemian gipsies, on their way to the coast, stopped to refresh themselves and their donkeys at the mountain spring; they were about thirty in number, and the men were remarkably tall and well-looking, but formidable enough, with their pistols and yataghans peeping from their girdles; they had two or three sickly, weary children in their train, who appeared half dead with heat and toil; and half a dozen withered old women who might have sat for the originals of Macbeth's witches, they were so "grim and grisly;" but there was one female among them, a dark-eyed, rosy-lipped maiden of sixteen, or thereabouts, who was the perfection of loveliness. For a while she stood apart, but, as the rest of the tribe, attracted by my riding-dress, clustered about me, and assailed me by questions to which I was utterly unable to reply, she at length took courage and joined the party. As her wild and timid glance wandered from me to her companions, I found that it invariably rested upon one individual, and I had little difficulty in filling up the romance suggested by her earnest looks. Nor was I deceived: for when the tribe moved away, the bridle of her donkey was held by the tall, sunburnt youth to whom she had attracted my attention; and, as they passed the stream, he did not relinquish it though he trod knee-deep in water when he might have traversed the little bridge without wetting the soles of his feet; but, in recompense of his devo-

feasted, as he went, on the smiles of his fair
, and the cherries which I had poured into her
fter their departure. I made a hasty sketch of
ntain, and then quitted with reluctance a spot
lent of beauty.

plain at this point appeared to be set in one
rrupted frame-work of mountains—the river ran
ering and sparkling through its centre—the
, as they flitted by, created a thousand beautiful
ies of light and shade; and the soft wind that
d through the maple leaves almost made me forget
atigue.

hat rills of water we passed through after we left
plain! At some of the fountains, groups of women
e washing; and it was amusing to see them hastily
idling on their *yashmacs* as they remarked the ap-
ach of our party. In many cases, the water which
aped from the basins provided for it, ran along the
d, and covering the whole surface for a considerable
ance, ere it buried itself among the long grass that
rted the plantation. The mulberry woods were
ceeded by gardens; and the rich, rank vegetation
minded me strongly of Portugal, than which I never
any country more similar.

At a short distance from Broussa, a fine old wall,
ed on the living rock, rose in its stern hoary decay
nediately before our path; clusters of mouldering
ers, half overgrown with parasites, from among
ich gleamed out in the modern and many-gabled
ace of some Turkish noble, all apparently growing
of its grey remains, varied the outline; nor did
lose sight of them until, on reaching the gate of
city, we turned sharply to the right, in order to
ape the Jews' quarter; and, on arriving in that
propriated to the Greeks took possession of a fur-
hed house, which had been prepared for us by the
ite *attention of Mr. Z*————, an Armenian mer-

chant, to whom we had a letter: when, on approaching the window, I found that the view was bounded by the same old wall, crowned by a charming kiosque, with its trellised terrace and domed temple, overhung with roses; while the rock, and even the wall itself, were thickly covered with wild vines, trailing their long branches like garlands; flowering rock-plants in abundance, and white jessamine and other parasites, rooted in the garden above, and mingling their blossoms with those which Nature alone had planted.

A stately Turk was seated at the open window of the kiosque, smoking his chibouque, and attended by his pipe-bearer; who, when he had satisfied his own curiosity, slowly withdrew, and was shortly replaced by a female, closely veiled, and followed by a couple of slaves. I fell asleep on the sofa without obtaining a glimpse of her face; and, on awaking, found that she had departed in her turn, and that a party of solemn-looking Musselmauns had established themselves in the temple from which they could overlook the whole of our apartment, where they were smoking, and drinking large goblets of water.

I do not know when the party broke up, as I retreated to the other side of the house, and took possession of a room whose windows looked into a court enclosed by high walls painted in fresco, and containing two pretty fountains, whose ceaseless murmurings soon lulled me once more to sleep. A fine lime tree threw its shade far into the apartment—a female voice was singing in the distance—and, as I cast myself on the divan, and closed my eyes, a feeling of luxury crept over me which influenced my dreams———

No wonder that my visions were of home, and of the best of mothers!—I was in her arms—on her heart.

My first hour's dream at Broussa was worth a waking day!

CHAPTER XIV.

cient Gate—Greek Inscriptions—Mausoleum of Sultan Orcan —Monkish Chronicle—The Turbedar Hanoum—Inverted Columns—Painted Pillars—Splendid Marbles—Tombs of the Imperial Family—The Greek Cross—The Sultan's Beard—Mausoleum of Sultan Ali Osman—Monastic Vaults—Ruined Chapel—Remains of a Greek Palace—Bassi Relievi—Ruined Fountains—Ancient Fosse—Dense Vegetation—Noble Prospect —Roman Aqueduct—Valley of the Source—Picturesque Groups —Coffee-Kiosques—Absence of Pretension among the Turks —The Tale Teller—Traveller's Khan—Sick Birds—Roman Bridge—Armenian Mother.

At an early hour on the following morning we started, accompanied by a guide, and our own servant who acted as Dragoman, to visit such objects of interest as might exist in the immediate vicinity of the city; and, after climbing the hill on which the ancient wall is based, and passing through a fine old gate, in whose neighbourhood we remarked several Greek inscriptions which had apparently been displaced at the capture of the city, as one or two of them are inverted, we found ourselves in front of the Mausoleum of Sultan Orcan.

This sovereign, who was the son of Othman, the first Turkish Emperor, took Broussa (which was, at that time, the capital of Bythinia), in the year 1350; and, according to an old monkish chronicle which I consulted on the spot, "he found three towers filled with the treasures of these kings, which they had been amassing from the first building of the city; gold and silver in ingots and in coins; pearls and jewels, among *which were twelve precious* stones unique in value;

furniture and dresses wrought in gold and silver; crowns of great price, filled with gold and pearls; saddles, pantaloons, and swords, worked with gold, and pearls, and jewels; forming altogether the lading of seven hundred camels, all of which he despatched to his native country. This done, he collected together all the young children: some he caused to lie on their stomachs upon the earth, where he trampled them beneath the feet of horses; others he flung into the river; and others again he exposed naked to the sun, where they died of thirst. Many mothers stifled their children, rather than deliver them over to the barbarian. It would be difficult to describe the torments inflicted on the bishops, the priesthood, and the monks; some were drowned, some burnt, some dragged by horses, &c., &c."

"This monarch," pursues the historian, "was brave, luxurious, and generous; and was the husband of Kilikia, the Princess of Caramania. He was wounded at the taking of Broussa, and died in consequence a few days afterwards, having reigned twenty-two years."

It was the tomb of this "generous" conqueror which we were about to invade; and, while the guide was absent in search of the *Turbedar Hanoum*, or Holy Woman, who had charge of the keys, I amused myself by examining the exterior entrance of the building, or rather of that portion of it, which is now converted into an Imperial Mausoleum.

The open porch, with its deeply-projecting roof painted in fresco, is supported by two pillars of coarse old Byzantine architecture, and composed of delicately-veined white marble. This porch gives admittance only to the Court of the Tomb-house, and presents a spectacle probably unique, and so characteristic of the progress of the fine arts in this country, that it *deserves* especial mention. The pillars to which I have alluded as supporting the porch are reversed; the

ıred capitals rest on the earth, and a plastered
lt has been supplied, gaudily painted in blue
ellow; while the pillars themselves are only just
ning, thanks to time and weather, to reveal the
rial of which they are composed, through their
ying coat of whitewash!

Then a frightful old woman, huddled up in a scarf
oarse white cotton, at length made her appearance,
in hand, and admitted us to the Inner Court, a
ond anomaly nearly as startling as the first pre-
nted itself. The enclosure was thickly planted with
oung trees, among which a pomegranate, gorgeous in
s livery of green and scarlet, was the most conspicu-
ous; and a sparkling fountain was pouring forth its
copious stream of clear cool water into a marble reser-
voir; while the long flexile branches of a wild vine
were gracefully wreathed across the entrance of the
Mausoleum. But here again the hand of barbarism
had been at work: the four slender Ionic columns of
grey marble which support the porch had undergone
the same melancholy process of painting, and their
capitals were decorated with a wreath of many-coloured
foliage!

Little did such an exhibition of modern Vandalism
prepare me for the splendid coup-d'œil that awaited
me within. The Mausoleum is a portion of an ancient
Greek Monastery, dismantled by Sultan Orcan at the
capture of the city; and is supposed to have been a
private chapel in which the Emperor was accustomed
to perform his devotions. It is of an oval form; and,
previously to a fire which partially destroyed it a few
years since, was entirely lined with rich marbles. Those
now deficient have been replaced by paint and stucco,
in precisely the same taste as that which operated on
the exterior; but, as their number is comparatively
small, the general effect is not greatly marred.

Sultan *Orcan, with his wife* Kilikia, two of his Odal-

liques, and seventeen of his children, occupy the centre of the floor; whose fine mosaic pavement has been covered, throughout the whole space thus appropriated, with a mass of coarse plaster, raised about a foot from the floor, and supporting the Sarcophagi. That of the Sultan himself is overlaid with a costly cachemire shawl, above which are spread two richly-embroidered handkerchiefs in crimson and green, worked with gold; while the turban at its head is decorated with a third, wrought in beautiful arabesques, and by far the most splendid thing of the kind that I ever saw. Those of the Sultanas and their children are simply painted of the sacred green, and totally unornamented; the first instance of such a marked distinction that I had yet met with in the country.

At the upper end of the Chapel, three rows of marble seats, arranged amphitheatrically, occupy the extremity of the oval immediately opposite to the altar, and are surmounted by a centre seat, supposed to have been that from which the monarch was accustomed to hear the mass, while his nobles placed themselves on the benches at his feet. The lofty dome is supported by six gigantic square pillars of masonry, and the marbles that line the walls are inserted with considerable taste. In one of the side arches a cross still remains, which was introduced among the mosaics by the Greeks; but a second, of much larger dimensions, which surmounted their altar, has been destroyed, and the space that it occupied coarsely covered with plaster.

On the left-hand side of the Imperial Sarcophagus hangs a small wooden case, shaped like a bird-cage, and covered with green silk, containing the Sultan's beard! —the precious relic of five centuries!

The Mausoleum of Sultan Ali Osman, the son of Orcan, which occupies the other wing of the building, *contains* no object of particular interest; the Hall of

e is similar in material and arrangement, save Sarcophagi of his wives and children are sim- tewashed. The modern emperors have been llant; and many a deceased Sultana sleeps the) at Constantinople, covered with shawls which, he rage for cachemires in Paris, would have lf the *élégantes* with envy.

the Mausoleum of Sultan Ali Osman, we nto the vaults of the Monastery, and through a nean cloister, supported by pillars; whence we ed by a crazy ladder into what had evidently e Chapel of the Monastery. Fragments of still remain about the dilapidated altar, and reen of the Sanctuary; here it is a head with- ody, and there a pair of legs without either; side a half-effaced inscription in old Monkish and on the other a cluster of wild flowers, ng the ruin against which they lean. Several rches of the Chapel still remain, and are very ly formed, but the whole scene is one of me- . The only portions of the building which ect are the tombs of the Ottoman Emperors; yet bears the trace of Christianity is stamped n.

ext visited the remains of the Palace of the Greek Emperors, whose dilapidated gateway ed by the mouldering fragments of two *bassi* and the ruins of two fountains of white marble, aters, unrestrained by the mutilated basins into hey poured themselves, have worn a narrow beside the road, where they rush along, spark- he sunshine. The capital of one of the columns nce graced them still remains nearly entire, f that elegant stalactite-like architecture pe- o the Arabs, and quite unknown in Europe. passed the gate, we entered a small court, *planted with ancient* mulberry trees, and con-

taining the remains of some of the Imperial offices; whence a second door admitted us into a wide enclosure, now converted into a nursery-garden, full of vigorous vegetation.

Passing onward, we crossed, by a few unsteady planks, a portion of the ancient fosse, and found ourselves upon the wall overhanging the city, surrounded by the group of mouldering and ivy-grown towers that I had remarked on my journey, and which I found to be the remains of the Palace.

Nothing more magnificent can be imagined than the view from this height. The wide plain through which we had travelled from the coast lay spread out before us; the river ran rushing in the light among the dense vegetation; far as the eye could reach, lofty mountains, purpled by the distance, shut in the prospect; while, immediately beneath us, Broussa lay mapped out in all its extent, the sober-coloured buildings overshadowed by lofty trees; and the three hundred and eighty mosques of the city scattered in the most picturesque irregularity along the side of the mountains, and on the skirts of the valley. The Palace of the Pasha was close beside us, and behind us rose the lofty chain of land which veiled the lordly summit of Mount Olympus; while over all laughed the bluest and the brightest sky that imagination can picture.

Beyond this, and this was of course the result of situation, and in itself independent of other interest, the remains of the Imperial Palace are altogether destitute of attraction; its decay is too far advanced, or rather its destruction is too absolute, to present a single charm to the most determined ruin-hunter in the world.

About a mile higher up the mountain stand the remains of a Roman aqueduct; half a dozen mouldering towers of colossal dimensions rise hoar and gray against *the sky*, and at their feet rushes along the pellucid *water* that supplies the fountains of the city. A narrow

annel formed of stone, and full to overflowing, guides e course of the stream, which escapes from the art of the mountain at the point where it hems in e gayest and the greenest valley that ever fairy revelled by moonlight. The channel skirts this valley, until again passes beneath the living rock, and pours itself to the reservoirs of Broussa,—but it is less of the ountain stream, or of the fine old Roman remains, at I desire to speak, than of the lovely glen to which have just alluded.

This fair spot is the "Sweet Waters" of Broussa; id as we chanced to visit it for the first time on a urkish Sunday, its effect was considerably heightened. urrounded by lofty mountains, overtopped by moul- uring ruins, shaded by stately trees, and fresh with ringing verdure, its aspect was yet further gladdened y groups of happy idlers in their holyday costume, ated on their mats along the margin of the source, or unging beneath the shade of two rudely constructed offee kiosques; one of which, built immediately beside e spring, and resting against the rock whence it sued, was shaded from the north wind by a small ut elegant mosque, whose tall minaret was reflected i the clear stream; while the other, erected beneath he shade of two majestic maples, seemed to contend he prize of coolness and comfort with its neighbour. rom one ridge of rock an elegant kiosque overhung he valley; while from another a cherry tree, laden ith fruit, tempted the hand with its clustering riches.

Altogether, I never beheld a more lovely scene; nd the last touch of beauty was given by the distant iew of a Turkish cemetery, which clothed the side of he mountain, and whose grave stones were shaded by lumps of the dark, silent cypress, relieved here and here by a stately walnut tree, with its bright leaves lancing in the wind. The groups that were scattered *ver the valley were eminently* picturesque: there was

the *employé* with his ill-cut frock-coat and unbecoming *fez*; the Emir, with his ample green turban, and his vest and drawers of snowy cotton; the Tartar, clad in crimson, wrought with gold, his waist bound with a leathern belt, and his legs protected by Albanian gaiters; the Ulema, with a white shawl twisted about his brow, and a brass ink bottle thrust into his girdle; the Turning Dervish, with his high cap of grey felt, and his pelisse of green cloth; the Greek *serudjhe*, with a black shawl twined round his *fez*, his jacket slung at his back, his gaily-striped vest confined by a shawl about his waist, his full trousers fastened at the knee, and his legs bare; the Armenian, with his tall calpac and flowing robe—all sitting in groups, smoking their chibouques, sipping their coffee, and drinking huge draughts of the cold rock-water, from goblets of crystal as clear and sparkling as the liquid which they contained.

At the coffee kiosque of the source, groups were engaged in conversation, without any regard to rank or situation in life. The Turks are perfectly destitute of that *morgue* which renders European society a constant state of warfare against intrusion. Every individual is "eligible" in Turkey; no one loses *caste* from the contact of unprivileged associates; the hour of relaxation puts all men on a level;—and the Bey sits down quietly by the caïquejhe, and the Effendi takes his place near the fisherman, as unmoved by the difference of their relative condition, as though they had been born to the same fortune.

There is something beautiful and touching in this utter absence of self-appreciation; and the young noble rises from the mat which he has shared with the old artizan, as uncontaminated by the contact as though he had been partaking the gilded cushions of a Pasha. But, ready as I am to admire this state of things, I am well aware that it could not exist with

the lower orders of Turkey and the lower orders Europe are composed of totally different elements. poor man of the East is intuitively urbane, rteous, and dignified; he is never betrayed into getfulness either of himself or of his neighbour; never knows, although he was bred in a hut, that may not die in a palace; and with this possibility fore his eyes, he always acts as though the hour of is metathesis were at hand.

It is probably from this feeling that an Osmanli miles when he hears a Frank vaunting himself on his nigh blood; and that he replies tersely and gravely to the boast, that "every Turk is born noble."

No greater proof of the superiority of the working classes of Turkey over those of Europe can be adduced, than the tranquillity of the Empire under a government destitute alike of head, heart, and hand; a government whose hollowness, weakness, and venality, will admit of no argument; whose elements are chicane, treachery, and egotism; and which would be unable to govern any other people upon earth even for a twelvemonth. Perhaps the great secret of this dignified docility is to be found in the high religious feeling which is universal among the Turks, and to which I have made allusion elsewhere. Should my judgment on this point be erroneous, however. it is certain that the character of the mass in Turkey must be moulded by principles and impulses, in themselves both respectable and praiseworthy, to produce so powerful a moral effect.

At the maple-tree kiosque the crowd was greater, for there one of the itinerant Improvisatori, or Eastern story-tellers, was amusing his hearers with a history, which, judging from its length, and the patience with which it was heard to an end, ought to have been exceedingly interesting. But no sound of boisterous *merriment arose amid the* grave and bearded auditors

once or twice a low chuckle, and a denser cloud of smoke emitted from the chibouque, gave slight indications of amusement: but that was all; every thing was as quiet, as orderly, and as well conducted, as though every individual of the party had been under priestly surveillance.

On quitting the Valley of the Source, we visited the Tekiè of the Turning Dervishes, with its two fine fountains, and its elegant chapel; and then proceeded to one of the public Khans, or Caravanserais, in which are lodged all travelling merchants, and such strangers as have not the opportunity of procuring private houses during their residence in Broussa. The building was inconvenient, ill-built, and confined in size, being a very inefficient substitute for one which was destroyed a few years ago by fire in its immediate vicinity; but its court was adorned with a very handsome fountain richly ornamented, beneath whose projecting roof the inhabitants of the Khan congregate to smoke and converse.

A small erection just within one of the gates of the court attracted my attention, from the circumstance of its roof being occupied by three eagles; two of them about half fledged, and the other evidently sick. I inquired the meaning of this location, and learned that the little edifice was appropriated to the use of such wild birds as the hunters and peasants chanced to meet during their rambles among the mountains, and which were suffering either from disease, desertion, or injury. Being carefully transported hither, they are fed, and attended to until they voluntarily take wing, and return to their rocky haunts. The present patients were two eaglets, which had been abandoned in the nest, and a wounded bird, which, without assistance, must have died from starvation. Such a trait of national character is well worthy of mention.

Upon the roof of a mosque about a hundred yards

the house which we occupied, a couple of storks made their nest, and, at the time of our visit, carefully tending their young, apparently quite fferent to all the noise and clamour going on imdiately beneath. The Turks repay the confidence is reposed in them with an almost superstitious verence for these feathered children of the wilderss; and the destruction of a bird of this species ould be sure to draw down upon the aggressor the ispleasure, if not the vengeance, of every neighbouring Musselmaun.

I must not omit to mention the covered bridge; a curious Roman remain in the Armenian quarter of the city, forming a street across a rapid torrent, which, falling from the mountain, pours itself into the plain. It is entirely tenanted by silk weavers, and its numerous windows are so patched and built up as to render it extremely picturesque. Its single arch is finely formed, and from a distance it is a very attractive object; but it is rapidly falling to decay.

I sketched it from the window of an Armenian house; overlooked in my employment by a sweet young woman, who held upon her knees her dying infant—her first-born son. As, I before stated, the Orientals believe every Frank, whether male or female, to be skilled in the healing art, she never ceased her prayer, during the whole of my stay under her roof, that I would restore her child to health. I shall never think of the Roman bridge at Broussa, but the weeping image of the young Armenian mother will be associated with it in my memory.

CHAPTER XV.

Orientalism of Broussa—Costume of the Men—Plain Women—Turbans and Yashmacs—Facility of Ingress to the Mosques—Oulou Jamè—Polite Imam—Eastern Quasimodo—Ascent of the Minaret—The Tenarent—Travelling Hyperboles—Silk Bazàr—Silk Merchants' Khan—Fountains of Broussa—Broussa and Lisbon—The Baths—Wild Flowers—Tzekerghè—Mosque of Sultan Mourad—Madhouse—Court of the Mosque—Singular Fountain—Mausoleum of Sultan Mourad—Golden Gate—Local Legend—The Tomb-house—More Vandalism—Ancient Turban—Comfortable Cemeteries—Subterranean Vault—Great Bath—Hot Spring—Baths and Bathers—Miraculous Baths—Armenian Doctress—Situation of Tzèkerghè—Storks and Tortoises—Turkish Cheltenham.

THE city of Broussa is infinitely more oriental in its aspect than Stamboul; scarcely a Frank is to be seen in the streets; no French shops, glittering with gilded timepieces and porcelain tea-services, jar upon your associations; not a Greek woman stirs abroad without flinging a long white veil over her gaudy turban, and concealing her gay coloured dress beneath a *feridjhe;* while the Turks themselves almost look like men of another nation.

I do not believe that, excepting in the palace of the Pasha, there are a hundred *fez*-wearing Osmanli in the whole city. Such turbans! mountains of muslin, and volumes of cachemire; Sultan Mahmoud would infallibly faint at the sight of them; worn, as many of them are, falling upon one shoulder, and confined by a string in consequence of their great weight. Such *watches!* the size, and almost the shape, of oranges;

mple drawers of white cotton, and flowing gar- of striped silk, and girdles of shawl! The wo- meanwhile, except such as belonged to quite the orders, were almost invisible; I scarcely en- tered one Turkish woman of condition in my ts; and those who passed in the arabas, kept the iced windows so closely shut, despite the heat, that vas impossible to get a glimpse of them. The men re a much finer race than those of Constantinople; rarely met a Turk who was not extremely hand- me, and much above the middle height; while the w women whom I *did* see were proportionably unat- ractive.

There is not a greater difference in the mode of wearing the turban by the one sex at Broussa, than in that of wearing the *yashmac* by the other. In Constantinople it is bound over the mouth, and in most instances over the lower part of the nose, and concealed upon the shoulders by the *feridjhe*. In Asia, on the contrary, it is simply fastened, in most cases, under the chin, and is flung over the mantle, hanging down the back like a curtain. In the capital, the *yashmac* is made of fine thin muslin, through which the painted handkerchief, and the diamond pins that confine it, can be distinctly seen; and arranged with a coquetry perfectly wonderful. At Broussa it is composed of thick cambric, and bound so tightly about the head that it looks like a shroud.

One circumstance particularly struck me at Broussa —I allude to the facility of visiting the mosques. While those of Stamboul are almost a sealed volume to the general traveller, he may purchase ingress to every mosque in Broussa for a few piastres; and well do many of them deserve a visit. That of Oulou Jamè situated in the heart of the city, is the finest and most spacious of the whole. Its roof is formed by twenty graceful domes, of which the centre one is open to the

light, being simply covered with iron network. Beneath this dome is placed a fine fountain of white marble, whose capacious outer basin, filled with fine crystal, is fed from a lesser one, whence the water is flung into the air, and falls back with a cool monotonous murmur, prolonged and softened by the echoes of the vast edifice. The effect of this stately fountain, the first that I had yet seen within a mosque, was extremely beautiful; its pure pale gleam contrasting powerfully with the deep frescoes of the walls, and the gaudily-coloured prayer-carpets strown at intervals over the matting which covered the pavement. The pulpit, with its heavily screened stair, was of inlaid wood; and the whole building remarkable rather for its fine proportions and elegant fountain than for the richness of its details. The scrolls containing the name of Allah, and those of the four Prophets, were boldly and beautifully executed; and the arched recess at the eastern end of the temple painted with some taste.

The High Priest was reading from the Korân when we entered, with his green turban and pelisse deposited on the carpet beside him. His utterance was rapid and monotonous, and accompanied by a short, quick motion of the body extremely disagreeable to the spectator. As we approached close to him, he suddenly discontinued reading, and examined us with the most minute attention; after which he resumed his lecture, and took no further notice of our intrusion. In one corner we passed a man sound asleep—in another, a woman on her knees before the name of Allah in earnest prayer, with the palms of her hands turned upwards. On one carpet an Imam was playing surrounded by half a dozen youths, apparently students of the medresch attached to the mosque; while on every side parties of True Believers were squatted down before their low reading desks, studying their *daily* portion of the Korân.

ie Imam who accompanied us in our tour of the que was so indulgent as even to allow me to retain shoes, alleging that they were so light as to be re slippers, and that consequently it was unnecessary put them off; and on my expressing a wish to end one of the minarets, the keeper was sent for to en the door and accompany me; nor shall I easily rget the object who obeyed the summons.

His brow girt with the turban of sacred green, his distorted body enclosed within a dark wrapping vest of cotton, and his short, crooked legs covered with gaiters of coarse cloth—moved forward a humped and bare-footed dwarf with a long gristled beard, whose thin skinny fingers grasped a pole much higher than himself: and who, after eyeing us with attention for a moment with a glance as keen and hungry as that of a wolf, sidled up close to the servant, and growling out "*backshich*," with an interrogative accent, began to fumble amid the folds of his garment for the key of the tower; and at length withdrew it with a grin, which made his enormous mouth appear to extend across the whole of his wrinkled and bearded countenance. As I looked at him I thought of Quasimodo—the monster of Nôtre Dame could scarcely have been more frightful!

Having carefully concealed his pole behind a pile of carpets, and flung back the narrow door of the minaret, this Turkish Quasimodo led the way up a flight of broken and dangerous stone steps, in perfect darkness consoling himself for the exertion which we had thu entailed on him, by an occasional fiend-like chuckle when he observed any hesitation or delay on the pa of those who followed him; and a low murmured cor mune with himself, in which the word *backshich* w peculiarly audible.

The stair terminated at a small door opening the *narrow gallery*, whence the muezzin calls

Faithful to prayers. The burst of light on the opening of this door was almost painful; nor is the sensation experienced when standing within the gallery altogether one of comfort. The height is so great, the fence so low, and the gallery itself so narrow, that a feeling of dizziness partially incapacitates the unaccustomed spectator from enjoying to its full extent the glories of the scene that is spread out before him, and which embraces not only the wide plain seen from the ruins of the Imperial Palace, but the whole chain of mountains that hem it in.

After a great deal of stumbling, slipping, and scrambling, we again found ourselves beside the fountain of Oulou Jamè; and, on leaving the mosque, remarked with some surprise that its minarets are painted in fresco on the outside, to about one-fourth of their height.

Having presented Quasimodo with a *backshich*, which sent him halting away with a second hideous grin, we proceeded to the Tcharchi, which is of considerable extent. As it chanced to be Sunday, the stalls usually occupied by Armenian and Greek merchants were closed; but many a Hassan, an Abdallah, and a Solyman, was squatted upon his carpet, with his wares temptingly arranged around him, his long beard falling to his girdle, his chibouque lying on the carpet beside him, and his slippers resting against its edge. Here, a green turbaned descendant of the Prophet, with half a dozen ells of shawl twisted about his head, dark fiery eyes, and a beard as white as snow, pointed silently as we passed to his embossed silver pistols, his richly-wrought yataghans, and his velvet-sheathed and gilded scimitars. There, a keen-looking Dervish, with his broad flat girdle buckled with a clasp of agate, and his gray cap pulled low upon his forehead, extended towards us one of his *neatly-turned* ivory perfume boxes.

hile examining his merchandize, we might have inclined to believe that we could purchase of him petual youth and imperishable beauty. He had s, and washes, and pastes, and powders; essences oils, and incenses, and perfumed woods; amulets, d chaplets, and consecrated bracelets, and holy gs; all set forth with an order and precision worthy their high qualities. A little further on, a solemn looking individual presided over a miniature representation of Araby the Blest. Spices were piled around him pyramidically, or confined in crystal vases, according to their nature and costliness; there were sacks of cloves, heaps of mace, piles of ginger, mountains of nutmegs, hampers of allspice, baskets of pepper, faggots of cinnamon, and many others less commonly known. Opposite the spice merchant was the gay stall of the slipper maker, with its gaudy glories of purple, crimson, and yellow; its purple for the Jew, its crimson for the Armenian, and its yellow for the Turk. I purchased a pair of slippers of the true Musselmaun colour, for which I paid about twice as much as their value, being a Frank; and we then continued our walk.

Not far from the slipper merchant, on the platform in front of one of the closed shops, sat a ragged Turk, surrounded by flowers of a pale lilac colour, which emitted a delicious odour. While I was purchasing some, I inquired whence they came, and learned that they were wild auriculas from Mount Olympus. I paid twice the price demanded for them, and bore them off. How knew I but that the seed might have been sown by Venus herself?

I had been told, previously to my leaving England and indeed before I had an idea of visiting Turkey that the stalls of the sweetmeat venders resemble fairy palaces built of coloured spars; and this too I an individual who had resided a few weeks at Constantinople. *I can only say,* that with every disposit

to do ample justice to all I saw, my own ideas of enchantment are much nearer realisation at Gunter's or Farrance's. The Turks do not understand that nicety of arrangement which produces so much effect in our metropolitan shops; and with the exception of the perfume and silk merchants, and perhaps one or two others, they are singularly slovenly in the disposition of their merchandize.

The sweetmeat venders have a row of glass jars along the front of their stalls, some filled with dried and candied fruits, others with sherbet cakes, and others with different descriptions of coloured and perfumed sugar; while the scented pastes, of which the Orientals are so fond, are cut up into squares with scissors, and spread out upon sheets of paper, or perforated with twine, and hung from the frame work of the shops like huge sausages. I confess that my imaginings of fairy land extended considerably beyond this. The merchandize itself, however, is far from contemptible; and we found that of the Tcharchi of Broussa even more highly perfumed than what we had purchased at Constantinople.

From the Tcharchi we passed into the silk bazàr, which was almost entirely closed, three-fourths of the merchants being Armenians; but among those who were at their posts, we selected one magnificent looking Turk, who spread out before us a pile of satin scarfs, used by the ladies of the country for binding up their hair after the bath; the brightest crimson and the deepest orange appeared to be the favourite mixture, and were strongly recommended; but their texture was so extremely coarse, and their price so exorbitant, that we declined becoming purchasers.

On leaving the silk bazàr we proceeded to the silk merchants' Khan, a solid quadrangular building, having a fine stone fountain in the centre of the paved *court; the most* respectable establishment of the kind

hroughout the city, where their number amounts to wenty. Above the great gate, the wrought stone ornice is curiously decorated with a wreath of mosaic, ormed of porcelain, as brightly blue as turquoise, which has a very pretty and cheerful effect.

The number of fountains in Broussa must at least louble that of the mosques, which amount to three hundred and eighty-seven. You scarcely turn the corner of a street that is not occupied by a fountain, and it is by no means uncommon to have three and even four in sight at the same time, without calculating that all the good houses have each one or more in their courts or gardens; no kiosque being considered complete without its basin and its little *jet d'eau*. Yet, notwithstanding this profusion of water, many of the streets are disgustingly dirty, not an effort being made to remove the filth which accumulates from the habit indulged in by the inhabitants of sweeping everything to the fronts of their houses. Indeed, setting aside the costume and the language, Broussa and its neighbourhood are a second edition of Lisbon: nearly the same dirt, the same bullock-cars, and luggage-mules, and rattle, from morning to night within the city; the same blue sky, sparkling water, dense vegetation, bright flowers, and lofty trees without; the golden Tagus of the one being replaced by the magnificent plain of the other.

After having returned home and changed our dress, we mounted our horses, and started to see the Baths. Nothing can be more beautiful than the road which conducts to them. Immediately on passing the gate of the city, you wind round the foot of the mountain, and descend into the village of Mouradiè; having the small mosque of Sultan Mourad on your right, and, in front of you, the lofty chain of land along which you are to travel. After traversing the village, you turn *abruptly to the left*, and, by a gentle ascent, climb

to about one third the height of the mountain; having on one hand the nearly perpendicular rock, and on the other a rapid and almost unprotected descent, clothed with vines and mulberry trees, whence the plain stretches away into the distance. The road, as I have described, hangs on the side of the mountain, and is fringed with wild flowers and shrubs; having the aspect of a garden; and it is with compunction that you guide your horse among them when turning off the narrow pathway at the encounter of a chance passenger; while the perfume which fills the air, and the song of the nightingales among the mulberry trees, complete the charm of the picture.

By this delightful road you reach the village of Tzèkerghè, in which the Baths are situated. It possesses a very handsome mosque, which was originally a Greek monastery. The exterior of the Temple is very handsome, the whole façade being adorned with a peristyle of white marble, and the great entrance approached by a noble flight of steps. The interior is, as usual, painted in scrolls, and lighted by pendent lamps, but is not remarkable for either beauty or magnificence. The arrangement of the cloisters and the refectory of the monks is very curious, being all situated above the chapel, and opening from a long gallery, surmounting the peristyle. To this portion of the building we ascended by a decaying flight of stone steps, many of whose missing stairs had been replaced by fragments of sculptured columns, and found the gallery tenanted by a solitary old lunatic, who, squatted upon a ragged mat, was devouring, voraciously, a cake of black soft bread, such as is used by the poorest of the population. The monastic cells have been converted into receptacles for deranged persons, but this poor old man was now their only occupant. We *threw him some* small pieces of money, which he *clutched with a* delight as great as his surprise, mur-

muring the name of Allah, and apparently as happy as a child.

The court of the mosque is shaded by three magnificent plantain trees, and the fountain which faces the peristyle is remarkable from its basin containing cold water, and its pipes pouring forth warm. As the pipe is connected with the basin, the phenomenon is startling, although the effect is very simply produced when once its cause is investigated, the fountain being fed by two distinct springs; the hot spring being built in, and forced into the pipes; and the cold one being suffered to fill the basin, whence it runs off in another direction.

Near the mosque stands the Mausoleum of Sultan Mourad I., whose court is enclosed by a heavy gate, said to be formed of one of the precious metals cased with iron; and the country people have a tradition that previously to his death, the Sultan desired that, should the Empire ever suffer from poverty, this gate might be melted down, when the reigning monarch would become more rich than any of his predecessors. Be this as it may, and it is sufficiently paradoxical, the gate has originally been richly gilded, though much of the ornamental work is now worn away; and it is probably to this circumstance that it owes its reputation.

Of an equally questionable nature is the legend relating to the name of the village, which signifies in English, Grasshopper — a fact accounted for by the peasantry in the following manner:—

Sultan Mourad, during the time that the Christian monastery was undergoing conversion into a Mohammedan mosque, was one day sitting within the peristyle, when a grasshopper sprang upon him, which he adroitly caught in his hand; where he still held it, when a Dervish approached, who, after having made his obeisance, began to importune the pious Sultan

for some indulgence to his order; and was assured that if he could tell, without hesitation or error, what was grasped by the monarch, the favour should be granted. The wily Dervish, knowing that the mountain abounded with grasshoppers, and that nothing was more probable than that one of these might have jumped upon the Sultan, immediately replied: "Though the ambition of a vile insect should lead it to spring from the earth of which it is an inhabitant, into the face of the sunshine, as though it were rather a denizen of the air, it suffices that the Imperial hand be outstretched to arrest its arrogance. Happy is it, therefore, both for the rebel who would fain build up a sun of glory for himself, of a ray stolen from the halo which surrounds the forehead of the Emperor of the World; and for the *tzèkerghè*, that, springing from its leafy obscurity, dares to rest upon the hem of the sacred garment, when the Sultan (Merciful as he is Mighty!) refrains from crushing in his grasp the reptile which he holds. Favourite of Allah! Lord of the Earth! Is my boon granted?"

"It is, Dervish," said the Sultan, opening his hand as he spoke, and thus suffering the insect to escape: "And that the memory of thy conference with Sultan Mourad may not be lost, and that the reputation of thy quick wit and subtle policy may endure to after ages, I name this spot Tzèkerghè—and let none dare to give it another appellation."

We were obliged to exert all our best efforts, in order to induce the Imam, who had charge of the Imperial Mausoleum, to allow us to enter. We were compelled to declare our country, our reasons for visiting Asia, and our purpose in desiring to see the tomb of a True Believer, when we were ourselves Infidels. Having satisfactorily replied to all these categories, we were, however, finally gratified by an *assent; and* the tall, stately Imam rose from the

wayside bank upon which he had been sitting, and, applying a huge key to the gate of which I have already spoken, admitted us to the Court of the Tomb.

This edifice, which was erected by the Sultan himself, is beautifully proportioned, and paved with polished marble: the dome is supported by twelve stately columns of the same material, six of them having Byzantine, and six Corinthian capitals; but the whole number are now painted a bright green, having a broad scarlet stripe at their base! I inquired the cause of this Vandalism, hoping, as the colour chosen was a sacred one, that some religious reason might be adduced, which, however insufficient to excuse the profanation, might at least tend to palliate it; but I failed in my object: they had simply been painted to make them prettier; and the same cause had operated similarly upon the gigantic wax candles that stood at the extremities of the Imperial Sarcophagus, and which were clad in the same livery.

A goodly collection of wives and children share the Mausoleum with Sultan Mourad, who is covered with splendid shawls, and at the head of whose tomb, protected by a handkerchief of gold tissue, towers one of the stately turbans of the ancient costume. As it was the first that I had seen, I examined it attentively; and am only astonished how the cobweb-like muslin was ever woven into such minute and intricate folds. At the head of the Sarcophagus, on a marble pedestal, (painted like the others!) stood a copper vessel inlaid with silver, and filled with wheat—the symbol of abundance; and at its foot was suspended a plough; while lamps and ostrich eggs were festooned among the columns.

The light fell in patches upon the marble floor, or quivered as the wind swept through the plantain trees, throwing fantastic shadows over the tombs; and I left the Mausoleum of Sultan Mourad, more than ever

convinced that no people upon earth have succeeded better than the Turks in robbing death of all its terrors, and diffusing an atmosphere of cheerfulness and comfort about the last resting-places of the departed.

The Sarcophagus, as I have already stated, is universally based on a mass of masonry about a foot in height, covered with plaster and whitewashed. I inquired why this portion of the tomb was not built of marble, when in many cases the floors, and even the walls of the Mausoleum, were formed of that material; and was assured by the Imam that it was from a religious superstition, which he was, nevertheless, unable to explain.

Beneath this stone work an iron grating veils the entrance of the subterranean in which the body of the Sultan is deposited; the Sarcophagus being a mere empty case of wood, overlaid by a covering of baize or cloth, concealed in its turn by shawls and embroidered handkerchiefs. No one is permitted to enter this subterranean (which can generally be approached also by an exterior door opening into the Court of the Tomb-house), save the reigning monarch; the Turks looking with horror on all desecration of the dead, and neither bribes nor entreaties being sufficient to tempt them to a violation of the sacred trust confided to them.

On quitting the mausoleum, we proceeded to the principal bath; where, leaving the gentlemen comfortably seated under the shade of a maple tree near the entrance, I went in alone. The appearance of the outer hall was most singular; the raised gallery was tenanted, throughout its whole extent, with Turkish and Greek women, eating, sleeping, and gossipping, or busied in the arrangement of their toilette; while, *suspended* from the transverse beams of the ceiling, *swung a score* of little hammocks, in which lay as

many infants. How the children of the country can, at so tender an age, endure the sulphurous and suffocating atmosphere of the bath is wonderful, but they not only do not suffer, but actually appear to enjoy it.

Passing from this hall, which was of considerable extent, I entered the cooling-room, in which the bathers were braiding their hair, or sleeping upon the heated floor; and opening a door at the upper end, I walked into the bath room. Here I found between forty and fifty women, whom for the first moment I could scarcely distinguish through the dense steam, arising from a marble basin that occupied the centre of the floor, and which was about a hundred feet in circumference.

The natural spring that supplies this basin is so hot that it requires considerable habit to enable an individual to support its warmth, when the doors of the bath are closed. The effect which it produced on me was most disagreeable; the combined heat and smell of the water were overpowering; but the scene was altogether so extraordinary, that I compelled myself to endure the annoyance for a few minutes, in order to form an accurate idea of an establishment of which I had heard so much.

The spring, escaping from a neighbouring mountain, is forced by pipes into the bathing-hall, where it pours its principal volume into the main basin, part of the stream being diverted from its channel in order to feed the lesser tanks of the private rooms; from the basin it escapes by a sluice at the lower end, and thus the body of water is constantly renewed. When I entered, several of the bathers were up to their chins in the basin, their long dark tresses floating on the surface of the water; others, resting upon a step which brought the water only to their knees, were lying upon the edge of the tank, while their attendants were pouring the hot

stream over them from metal basins; some, seated on low stools, were receiving the mineralized fluid after the fashion of a shower bath; while one, lying all her length upon the heated marble of the floor, so heated that I could scarcely apply my open palm to it without suffering, was sleeping as tranquilly as though she had been extended upon a bed of down.

The hot springs of Broussa are numerous, but vary considerably in their degrees of temperature; those which are frequented by persons labouring under chronic diseases are much warmer than those used by ordinary patients. The most powerful spring boils an egg perfectly hard in two minutes: while there are others that are not more than blood-heat. They are all highly mineralized, and that which feeds the large basin of the public hall is strongly impregnated with sulphur.

My appearance in the bath did not create the slightest sensation among the bathers. The few whom I encountered on my way moved aside to enable me to pass, and uttered the usual salutation; while those who were more busily engaged simply suspended their operations for a moment, and resumed them as soon as their curiosity was gratified.

I afterwards visited the "Miraculous Bath," of which it is asserted that a person in a dying state, who will submit to pass a night in complete solitude on the margin of the basin, will rise in the morning perfectly restored to health, whatever may have been the nature of the disease; but unfortunately, I could not find any one who had experienced, or even witnessed, a cure of the kind, though many had heard of them in numbers. As an equivalent, however, an old, ugly, red-haired Armenian woman was pointed out to me, who is a celebrated doctress, and who had just succeeded in sending home a credulous elderly gentleman to die in Constan-

tinople, who came to Broussa in a state of indisposition, and left it, thanks to the nostrums of this ancient sibyl, without a hope of recovery.

Many of the houses in the village are furnished with hot springs; and although they are, generally speaking, of mean appearance, and in a dilapidated condition, they produce very high rents during the season; and are usually let to Greek families of distinction, or to Europeans.

The situation of Tzèkerghè is eminently beautiful, and the air is balmy and elastic; the magnificent plain is spread out beneath it; it is backed by lofty mountains; and it is in itself a perfect bower of fig-trees, plantains, and maples. The rush of water into the valley feeds a score of fountains, which keep up a perpetual murmur; open kiosques are raised along the hill-side, some of them traversed by a running stream; storks build in the tall trees; tortoises and land turtles crawl among the high grass and the wild flowers; and altogether I know not a prettier spot than that which is occupied by the village of Tzèkerghè—the rural Cheltenham of Turkey.

CHAPTER XVI.

Difficulty of Access to the Chapel of the Howling Dervishes—Invitation to Visit their Harem—The Chapel—Sects and Trades—Entrance of the Dervishes—Costume—The Prayer—Turning Dervishes—Fanatical Suffering—Groans and Howls—Difficulty of Description—Sectarian Ceremony—Music *versus* Madness—Tekiè of the Turning Dervishes.

Of all the religious ceremonies of the East, those of the different sects of Dervishes are the most extraordinary, and, generally speaking, the most difficult of access. The Turning Dervishes alone freely admit foreigners, and even provide a latticed gallery for the use of the women: while their chapels are usually so situated as to enable the passer-by to witness all that is going on within. The more stern and bigoted sects, on the contrary, permit none but Musselmauns to intrude upon their mysteries, and build their chapels in obscure places, in order to prevent the intrusion of Christians.

I had heard much of the Howling Dervishes, and had made many unsuccessful attempts at Constantinople to penetrate into their Tekiè; but they are so jealous of strangers that I was unwillingly compelled to give up all idea of accomplishing my object; when, on arriving at Broussa, and finding how comparatively easy it was to gain admittance to the mosques, I resolved to renew my endeavours. But I found that even here many difficulties were to be overcome; difficulties which, of myself, I never could have surmounted; when, having fortunately made the acquaintance of a gentleman who was known to the High

riest, and who had already witnessed their service, I revailed on him to exert his influence for me, in which ie fortunately succeeded.

On arriving at the Tekiè, we found that the service had not yet commenced, and we accordingly seated ourselves on a stone bench in the little outer court, to await the gathering of the fraternity. While we remained there, one of the principal Dervishes approached us, and offered, should I desire it, to admit me into the interior of the harem to visit the women; but, as the ceremonies were shortly to commence in the chapel, and I was already suffering extremely from the heat, I declined to profit by the indulgence.

The chapel, which was up stairs, was approached by an open entrance, having on the left hand a small apartment, whose latticed windows looked into this place of mystery; and into this room we were admitted, after having taken off our shoes; while a couple of youths were stationed within the gallery of the chapel itself, in order to prevent the crowd from impeding our view.

A large square apartment surrounded by a low gallery, and ornamented like the mosques, with written passages from the Kerân; upon whose walls were suspended battle-axes, tambourines, and half a dozen small Arabian drums; and whose arched recess was shaded by three banners of the sacred green, and overlaid with a rich crimson rug,—formed the chapel of the Howling Dervishes. Within the niche, framed and glazed, were suspended the names of the Prophets a huge chaplet, and a green scarf; and on each side a small portion of the gallery was railed off for the convenience of a few individuals of rank. One of these was already occupied by a solemn-looking Turk, in a frock-coat and *fez*, doubtlessly one of the sect, who had withdrawn from the public exercise of *his religion*.

I know not whether I have elsewhere noticed that every Musselmaun, however high his rank, has a trade and a peculiar faith; thus the Sultan is a Turning Dervish and a Tooth-pick maker; and I have consequently no doubt but the Turk in question had an individual interest in the ceremonial. He was accompanied by a child of about six years of age, dressed precisely like himself, and attended by a black slave. I was more confirmed in my opinion relative to the father by watching the gestures of the son, who imitated every motion of the Dervishes during the service with the most perfect exactness, and who was accommodated with a rug near the seat of the High Priest.

The throng which pressed into the chapel was immense, and the heat most oppressive; while the youths who guarded our windows were kept in constant action by the strenuous efforts made by the crowd to occupy the vacant space. I never saw a finer set of men; such bright black eyes, fine foreheads, and sparkling teeth.

At length a low chanting commenced in the court, and a train of Dervishes, headed by the High Priest, slowly ascended to the chapel. They had no peculiar costume, save the chief himself, who wore a magnificent green turban with a white crown, and a cloak of olive-coloured cloth. He was a pale, delicate-looking man of about one or two-and-twenty, whose father had been dead a couple of years; when, as the dignity is hereditary throughout all the sects of the Dervishes, he had succeeded to the painful honours of the crimson rug. There was something melancholy in seeing this sickly youth lead the nine fanatics who followed him to the upper end of the chapel, to commence their agonizing rites; and as he stepped upon the rug, with the palms of his hands turned upwards, and the attendant Dervishes cast themselves on the earth, and laid *their foreheads* in the dust, I felt a thrill of pity for the

ill-judged zeal and blind delusion which was rapidly wearing him to the grave.

One of the causes adduced by this sect of their disinclination to admit Christians to their worship, is the frequent recurrence of the name of Allah in their orizons, which should never be uttered in an atmosphere polluted by the breath of a Giaour. I presume that, in our case, their consciences were quieted by the intervention of the wooden lattices, and the reflection that we were not actually within the chapel.

The prayer was long and solemn; not a sound was audible, save the low monotonous chant of the High Priest, and the deep responses of his followers, who, ere it ended, had increased in number to about fifty. At its close, the whole of the Dervishes formed a ring round the chapel, and one of the elders, of whom there were four, spread in the recess a fine tiger skin, upon which the High Priest took his place; and then, turning his face towards Mecca, and murmuring a low prayer, to which the rest replied by stifled groans, he invested himself with the green scarf which I have already mentioned, and, resuming his seat upon the rug, commenced a species of chant, which was echoed by the whole fraternity: every individual swinging himself slowly to and fro, as he sat with his feet doubled under him upon the floor. Every moment added to their numbers, and each on his arrival cast off his slippers at the entrance, and advanced barefooted to the place of the High Priest; where, after praying silently for a moment with outstretched palms, he stroked down his beard, and, bending on one knee, pressed the hand of his leader to his lips and forehead, and then took up a position in the ring; which ultimately became so thronged that the individuals who composed it pressed closely upon each other; and, as they swung slowly to and fro, appeared to move in one *dense mass.*

The ceremony was at this point, when the Chief of the Turning Dervishes, accompanied by his two principal Priests, arrived to assist at the service of his fellow-Dervish. The chant ceased as they entered the chapel; the youthful leader of the Howling Dervishes bent down in his turn, and pressed the hand of his visitor to his lips, while the stately guest kissed the cheek of the pale stripling who passed forward to greet his companions, and, after conducting them to the place of honour, seated himself beside them.

The chanting was then resumed, and after a time increased in quickness; while at intervals, as the name of Allah was pronounced, some solitary individual uttered a howl, which I can compare to nothing but the cry of a wild beast.

Things had progressed thus far, when suddenly a strong voice shouted, "Allah Il Allah!" and a powerful man sprang from the floor, as though he had been struck in the heart, fell forward upon his head, and by a violent spasm rolled over, and lay flat upon his back, with his arms crossed on his breast, and his whole frame as rigid as though he had stiffened into death. His turban had fallen off, and the one long lock of hair pendent from the centre of his head was scattered over the floor—his mouth was slightly open, and his eyes fixed—in short, the convulsion was a terrific one; and it was not before the lapse of several minutes that two of the fraternity, who hastened to his assistance, succeeded in unclasping his hands, and changing his position. Having ultimately raised him from the floor, still in a state of insensibility, they carried him to the crimson rug, and laid him at the feet of the High Priest, who stroked down his beard, and laid his right hand upon his breast; they then continued to use all their efforts to produce re-animation; and having ultimately succeeded, they seated him once more in his *place, and left* him to recover himself as he might.

The howling still continued at intervals, and as the chanting and the motion increased in violence, these miserable fanatics appeared to become maddened by their exertions; when, at a certain point of the ceremony, four of the fraternity, who had green scarfs flung over their left shoulders, advanced, one by one, to the seat of the High Priest, and there slowly, and with much parade, transferred them first to their necks, and afterwards to their waists, and ultimately took their stand, two on each side of the *mihrab*, or recess.

After the lapse of a short interval, the High Priest rose and advanced into the centre of the ring, where he took possession of a carpet that had been spread for him, having immediately behind him two of the assistant priests; and they then commenced a prayer, the effect of which was thrilling. The young chief delivered a sentence in a clear, melodious voice, and paused; when the whole fraternity responded by a long groan: again and again this was repeated, only interrupted from time to time by some wild, fiendish howl, the individual who uttered it tossing back his head, and flinging his arms into the air with the gesture of a maniac.

To this prayer succeeded another low sustained wail, during whose continuance the priests collected the turbans, pelisses, cloaks, pistols, and yataghans, of the Dervishes, who, springing to their feet, stood in a circle about their chief; and then commenced the painful portion of their service. The measure of the chant was regulated by the High Priest, who clapped his hands from time to time to increase its speed; himself and his four green-girdled assistants uttering the words of the prayer, while the fraternity, rocking themselves to and fro, kept up one continual groan, rising and falling with the voices of the choir. Howl succeeded to howl, as the exhaustion consequent on the

violent bodily exertion began to produce its effect; until at length strong men fell on the earth on all sides like children, shrieking and groaning in their agony; some struggling to free themselves from the grasp of those who endeavoured to restrain them, and others trembling in all their limbs, and sobbing out their anguish like infants.

I never witnessed such a scene; nor should I have conceived it possible for human beings to have gratuitously subjected themselves to the agony which these misguided wretches visibly endured. The chanting ceased suddenly at given intervals, but not so the groans; for the speed with which they were uttered, and the violence of motion by which they were accompanied, became finally so great, that several seconds frequently elapsed before the miserable beings could check either the one or the other, and many of them fell into convulsions with the effort.

The more I write on the subject of this extraordinary and disgusting exhibition, the more I feel the utter impossibility of conveying by words a correct idea of it; from a long sustained groan, and a slow, heaving, wave-like motion, it grew into a hoarse sobbing, and a quick jerk, which I can compare to nothing that it more resembles than the rapid action of a pair of bellows; the cheeks and foreheads of the actors became pale, their eyes dim, and white foam gathered about their mouths; in short, the scene resembled rather the orgies of a band of demons than an offering of worship to a God of peace and love!

At this period of the ceremony, the muffled flutes used by the Turning Dervishes were heard, accompanied by the low sound of the small Arabian drums; and a majestic looking man, clad entirely in white, with a black girdle, rose, at a signal from his chief, and commenced his evolutions. His example was speedily followed by two more of the fraternity; the

chanting ceased, but the circle of Howling Dervishes continued their short groans to the accompaniment of the music, and the spectacle thus produced was most extraordinary. Such an occurrence had not taken place for an immense time, and arose from the anxiety of each sect to impress our party in their favour, which they were desirous of doing when they had once been induced to admit us.

To this exhibition succeeded one as striking of its kind; the tambourines and drums were divided among the fraternity; the latter were all beat by youths, who formed a second, or inner circle, and in the midst of whom stood the High Priest, striking a pair of cymbals. Groans, howls, and yells, such as may haunt the ear of the midnight traveller in the wilderness, filled up the diapason; while the struggles of the convulsion smitten, and their wild shrieks, completed the horror of the scene. It was impossible to bear it longer; and we hurried from the latticed apartment just as three more tottering wretches were falling to the earth, howling out the sacred name of Allah, in tones better suited to a Satanic invocation!

On the morrow we visited the elegant chapel of the Turning Dervishes, where a carpet was politely spread for us by order of the High Priest; and we once more witnessed their service, which was far more picturesque at Broussa than at Pera, owing to the beauty of the building and the numbers of the fraternity. However extraordinary and unmeaning their ceremonies may appear to strangers, they have this great advantage over the other sect, that they are neither ridiculous nor disgusting. The most perfect order, the most touching solemnity, and the most beautiful cleanliness, are their leading characteristics; and it is impossible for any unprejudiced person to quit their Tekiè, without feeling at least as much respect as pity for the Turning Dervishes.

CHAPTER XVII.

Loquacious Barber—Unthrifty Travellers—Mount Olympus—Early Rising—Apect of the Country at Dawn—Peasants and Travellers—Fine View—Peculiarity of Oriental Cities—Stunted Minarets—Plains and Precipices—Halting-place—Difficulty of Ascending the Mountain—Change of Scenery—Repast in the Desert—Civil Guide—Appearance of the Mount—Snows and Sunshine—Fatiguing Pilgrimage—Dense Mists—Intense Cold—Flitting Landscape—The Chibouque—The Giant's Grave—The Roofless Hut—Lake of Apollonia—The Wilderness—Dangerous Descent—Philosophic Guide—Storm among the Mountains—The Guide at Fault—Happy Discovery—Tempest.

I REMEMBER to have heard an anecdote of a facetious barber, who, while operating upon the chin of a customer, commenced catechising his victim on the subject of his foreign travel.

"You are an army gentleman, I believe, Sir; pray were you in Egypt?" "Yes." "Really! then perhaps you saw the Pyramids?" "Yes." "Travelled a little in Greece, perhaps, Sir?" "A little." "Pleasant place, Greece, I've been told; Athens, and all that. I dare say you fought in the Peninsula?" "Once or twice." "Charming country, Spain, I've heard, Sir; indeed I 've read Gil Blas, which gives one a very pretty notion of it. Plenty of oranges in Portugal, Sir?" "Plenty." "Vastly nice: indeed quite a favourite fruit of mine. Did you ever serve in the East or West Indies, Sir?" "In both." "Really! why you're quite a traveller. Of course, Sir, you've seen Paris?" "Never." "Never seen Paris, Sir!"

exclaimed the man of snds and small talk: "never visited the French metropolis! why dear me, Sir, you have seen nothing!"

In like manner, he who travels to the East; who feasts with Pashas in Europe, and eats pillauf with Beys in Asia; who peeps into palaces; glides in his swift caïque along the channel of the Bosphorus; overruns all Turkey, and half Egypt, and returns home without smoking a pipe on the summit of Mount Olympus, has, according to the declaration of the natives, "seen nothing."

Of course it was out of the question that I should add to the number of these unthrifty travellers; and accordingly, on the morning of the 11th of June (at least two months too soon), the horses were at the door at four o'clock; and, shaking off my sleepiness as well as I could, I set forward, accompanied by a Greek gentleman (with whose charming family we had formed a friendship, and who was himself well calculated, by his scientific acquirements, to enhance the enjoyment of the expedition), our servant, and a guide, for the dwelling of the gods.

The morning was yet grey; the mists were hanging in wreaths about the mountains, and draping them in ermine; the dew was lying heavily on the dense vegetation; a few straggling peasants passed us on the outskirts of the sleeping city, some bearing scythes upon their shoulders, affixed to straight poles about eight feet in length, or carrying round spades of wood, or driving before them the animals who were to return laden with mulberry branches for the nurture of the silk-worms which are reared in millions at Broussa. The number of individuals constantly employed in providing food for these insects must be very great, as we have counted upwards of two hundred horses, mules, and donkeys, bearing closely-packed loads of boughs, *passing in one day* beneath our windows from

the same gate of the city; and, as the immense plain is covered with trees, which are each year cut closely down to the trunk, the consumption may be imagined.

A little beyond the city we passed a mule-litter, closely covered with scarlet cloth, guided by two men, and followed by three Turkish gentlemen on horseback, attended by their servants, bound on some mountain pilgrimage; but we had not proceeded above half a league, ere, with the exception of a string of mules laden with timber, which occasionally crossed our path, we had the wilderness to ourselves.

The ascent commences immediately on leaving the city, which on this side is bounded by a deep ditch or fosse, into which two mountain torrents, boiling and bellowing down from the neighbouring heights, pour their flashing waters. A narrow pathway, so narrow that two saddle-horses cannot pass in it, traverses a dense wood of dwarf oak and hazel, clothing the hill-side, above whose stunted summits we looked down upon the plain, and the minarets of Broussa.

A sudden turn in the road conducted us rapidly upwards, freed us from the hazel-wood, and plunged us among masses of rock, over which our horses slid and stumbled, until we reached the foot of the next range of heights. Here the landscape began to grow in beauty: behind us was the city fenced with mountains, mapped out in all its extent, and as remarkable as that of Constantinople for the extraordinary and beautiful admixture of buildings and foliage, which I never remember to have seen elsewhere.

Every habitation possessing, if not its garden, at least its one tall tree, beneath whose boughs the family congregate during the warm hours, the appearance of an Eastern city, as you look down upon it from any neighbouring height, is entirely devoid of that monotony which renders the roofs and chimneys of an European *town so* utterly uninteresting. It looks as though the

houses had grown up gradually in the midst of a thick grove, and the eye lingers without weariness on the scene, where the glittering casements, touched by the sunlight, flash through the clustering leaves, and the wind heaves aside the more flexile branches to reveal a stately portal, or a graceful kiosque. From the spot on which we now stood, we saw Broussa to great advantage. The most striking object was the spacious Mosque of Oulou-Jamè piercing through the morning mists in spectral whiteness; the stunted minarets looking like caricatures of those light, slender, fairy-moulded creations which shoot so loftily into the blue heaven at Stamboul; minarets that have sacrificed their grace to the south wind, which blows so violently at Broussa as frequently to unroof the more lofty buildings; and whose ill-proportioned cupolas of lead complete the pictorial ruin, and give them the appearance of bulky wax candles, surmounted by metal extinguishers. A small space beyond ran the river, sparkling along its bed of white pebbles; and away, afar off, the range of mountains purpling in the distance, and crowned with clouds!

Beside us, not half a foot from our horse's hoof, we had a sheer precipice clothed with dwarf-oak and spruce; and we heard, although we could not see, the tumbling waters of a torrent which roared and rushed along the bottom of the gulf. Beyond the precipice, towered a lordly mountain, upon whose crest were pillowed dense masses of fleecy vapour, while stately fir-trees draped it with a thousand tints. Before us rose masses of rock, through which we had to make our way; and from every crevice sprang a forest tree, whose gnarled and knotted roots were washed by a rushing stream, which was flung up like spray as our horses splashed through it. We next reached a patch of soft fresh turf: maple and ash-trees overshadowed it; the *ringdoves* were cooing amid the leaves, and

the grasshopper, as green and almost as bright as an emerald, was springing from flower to flower.

It is a place of pause for the traveller, and it deserves to be so. There can scarcely be a lovelier in the world! One or two fragments of cold grey rock pierced through the rich grass, as if to enhance its beauty, and afforded a resting-place, whence we looked round upon the masses of mountain scenery by which we were surrounded; and few, I should imagine, would fail to profit by this opportunity of temporary rest, when they contemplated the far extent of wild and difficult country through which they were to travel.

Let none venture the ascent of Mount Olympus who have not the head and the hand equally steady, who are incapable of not only standing upon the "giddy brink," but also of riding along it when the road is scarcely a foot in width, and the precipice some hundreds in depth; and where the only path is a torrent-chafed channel, or a line of rock piled in ledges, and slippery with water: for assuredly, to all such, *le jeu ne vaudra pas la chandelle*, as it is impossible to imagine ways less calculated to calm the nerves, or to re-assure the timid. You urge your horse up a flat stone, as high and as large as a billiard-table, and splash he descends on the other side up to his girths in mud; now you ride up a bank to escape collision with a string of timber-laden mules, and in descending you are stumbling and scrambling among the roots of trees, which twirl and twist among the vegetation like huge snakes; at one moment you are almost knocked off your saddle by a forest-bough that you have not room to avoid, and the next you are up to your knees in a torrent which he refuses to leap. Assuredly, the gods never wished to receive company.

As the ascent became more difficult, the whole face of the landscape changed: lofty firs shot upwards against the clear sky, while rocks fantastically piled,

and looking like the ruins of a lordly city, were scattered over a plain which we skirted in turning the elbow of the next range of heights. Here and there, a tree that had been smitten by the thunder, reared aloft its white and leafless branches, while its shivered trunk looked like a mass of charcoal. Eagles and vultures soared above our heads; innumerable cuckoos called to each other among the rocks; at intervals the low growl of a bear was heard in the distance; and altogether, a more savage scene can scarcely be imagined.

A fine fir-wood succeeded, which terminated in a small plain intersected by a sparkling trout-stream, whose waters formed a thousand pigmy cascades as they tumbled over the rocky fragments that choked their channel. Here we spread our morning meal, cooling our delicate Greek wine in the waters of Mount Olympus, and seating ourselves upon the fresh turf which was enamelled with violets and wild hyacinths. At this spot travellers usually leave their horses, and proceed to the summit of the mountain on foot; but our good cheer, our soft words, and, above all, the promise of an increased *backshish*, so won upon our guide, that he consented to let his horses' knees and our necks share the same risk, and to proceed as much further as might be practicable for the animals.

What a breakfast we made! My intelligent Greek friend already talking of his mineralogical expectations; I decorating my riding-habit with lovely wild flowers; the portly Turk paying marked attention to the hard eggs and *caviare*, and the servant passing to and fro the stream with glasses of cool wine, sparkling like liquid topaz.

Before us towered the mountain, whose every creek and crevice was heaped with snow, while one dense mass of vapour hung upon its brow like a knightly plume. From the summit of the mount the snow had disappeared, *but the white* slate-stone of which it is

composed gleamed out beneath the sunshine with a glare that was almost dazzling. The sides of the rock are clothed with juniper, which, from the continual pressure of the snow, is dwarfed and stunted, and rather crawls along the earth than springs from it; and whose berries produce a singular and beautiful effect on the masses beneath which they are concealed, by giving to them a pink tinge that has almost the effect of art. Yet, nevertheless, I could not forbear casting a glance of anxiety at the towering height, which all its majesty and magnificence failed to dispel. I had been told that in the month of June it would be impossible for a female to ascend to the summit; I had already left behind me six long leagues of the wilderness; two more of perpetual and difficult ascent were before me; but I remembered my prowess in the Desert of the Chartreux, and I resolved to persevere.

Our hamper was repacked, our bridles were readjusted, and, fording the little stream, we once more set forward upon our "high emprize;" and after scrambling over ledges of rock, and riding through nine torrents, we at length found ourselves at the foot of the almost perpendicular mountain.

It was a magnificent spectacle! The mid-day sun was shining upon the eternal snows, which, yielding partially and reluctantly to its beams, were melting into a thousand pigmy streams; the highest peak of the mount, crowned by its diadem of vapour, rose proudly against the blue sky; the ragged ridges of the chain, tempest-riven and bare, hung over the snow-filled gulfs, into which the grasp of centuries had hurled portions of their own stupendous mass; and not a sound was audible save the brawling of the torrents in the lower lands, or the wind sweeping at intervals round the rocky point.

When I dismounted, and flung my bridle to the

guide, I felt as though I had gained another year of life!

Never shall I forget the fatigue of that ascent; a weary league over the gnarled roots of the juniper plants, and loose stones which treacherously failed beneath our feet, and frequently lost us six steps for the one that we thought to gain. But at length we stood upon the edge of the rock; we had climb the ascent, and were looking down upon the mountains that we had traversed in the morning, as though into a valley; but our task was not yet ended: the loftiest peak, the seat of Jupiter, yet towered above us, and seemed to mock our efforts. Between that peak, and the spot on which we stood, there was a deep hollow, to be descended on our side, and again mounted on the other: the rock was edged with snow many feet in depth; our feet sank among the loose stones; the cold was piercing; and to add to our discomfort, the vapours were rising from the valley beyond the mountain in one dense mass which resembled the concentrated smoke of a burning world.

The effect was sublimely awful! Fold upon fold; shade darkening over shade; nothing was to be seen but the cold, gray, clinging vapour which hung against the mountain, as if to curtain the space beyond. It was frightful to stand upon the edge of the precipice, and to mark the working of that mysterious cloud; fancy ran riot in looking on it; its superhuman extent; its unearthly, impalpable texture; its everchanging form; its deep, dense tint; my brain reeled with watching its shifting wonders; and had not my companion wit. drawn me from the brink, I should have sunk down from sheer mental exhaustion.

We had been warned not to linger when on the mountain, and after the lapse of a few moments we again toiled on. At intervals the vapour rolled back, and gave us glimpses of hills, and valleys, and woods,

and streams, far below us; but it was like the production of a fairy-wand, for while we yet looked upon them they were lost: another heavy fold of mist rose from the chasm, and again all was chaos.

At length the chibouque was lighted. We stood upon the Grave of the Giant; upon the highest point of Mount Olympus—beside the roofless hut, built for the shelter of the storm-overtaken traveller, and so ingeniously sunk beneath the surface as to form a well, in which such a shower of rain, as commonly falls in the neighbourhood of the mountain, would go nigh to drown the hapless wanderer who might trust to the treacherous asylum.

Behind us all was vapour: before us stretched away the mountain-chain across which we had travelled: while far, far in the distance, and almost blent with the horizon, we distinguished the blue Lake of Apollonia. While we yet looked, we saw the mists gathering about our own path; curling up from the swampy patches between the hills; rolling along the rocky channel of the torrents: draping the broad branches of the dark firs; clinging to the mountain sides—we had no time to lose. We were not travellers on a highway; we had neither fingerposts nor landmarks—all is so nearly alike in the wilderness: one pile of cold gray rock looms out from amid the mists shaped so like its neighbour; one rushing torrent brawls over its stony bed so like another: one stretch of forest darkens the mountain side with a gloom so similar to that which shadows the opposite height, that we thought it well to avoid the gathering of the vapours, if we did not wish to sleep in the desert.

To return by the way that we had ascended was out of the question; for we had walked upwards of a league along the summit of the mountain, after having gained the height. The other face of the rock presented a much shorter road; but, as it was extremely

dangerous, we held a council to decid
should venture—the fatigue and loss o
possibility of accident. We were alreac
and foot-sore; but, not caring to co
each other that it was the exertion fr
shrank, we both talked very sagely of
delay, with the mists gathering so rapidl
and decided, as a matter of prudence, o
the precipice.

I have already mentioned the mountai
projected over the gulf, and whose jagged
riven outline bore testimony to the ravages
tempest; while the huge fragments of
which heaved up their dark masses from
accumulated snows beneath, broke the smoo
and betrayed the depth of the precipice.

This was the point on which we fixed for ou
my companion, who was an accomplished s
and accustomed to the dizzy mountains of
led the way; and, as he assured me that
but nerve was required to ensure success, I
without hesitation. Seating ourselves, therefo
the summit of the mountain, we slid gently
narrow ledge of rock, just sufficiently wide
us footing; and clinging to the stones whi
out from the natural wall on the one side, and
avoiding to look towards the precipice on
we slowly made our way to a second descent
he first. This hazardous exploit, thrice
arried us through the most difficult portio
ndertaking, as the rock then projected s
wards the base to enable us to step from ston
ntil we arrived at the edge of the snow.

As we could form no calculation of its dept
t venture to traverse it, which would have
distance very considerably; but skirting
ere it was not more than mid-way to

we at length arrived in a patch of swampy land, inundated by the melting of the mountain snows, and scattered over with rocks, many of them split asunder, as though they had suffered from the wrath of Vulcan in one of his stormy moods. Our wet and weary feet next carried us up a slight ascent, to a stretch of land as brilliant and as sweet as a flower-garden. Were I to enumerate all the blossoms that I saw growing wild on this spot, the next page of my book would resemble a floricultural catalogue; and, tired as I was, I could not pass them by without gathering a bouquet which would have done no disgrace to an English parterre.

In half an hour more we entered the grassy nook where we had left our horses; and the recompense of our prowess from the guide when we pointed out to him the spot whence we had descended was a look of contemptuous pity, accompanied by the remark that we were "two mad Franks!"

We had scarcely taken a hasty glass of wine, and mounted our horses, when two loud claps of thunder, following close upon each other, rattled along the mountain-tops, and enforced on us the necessity of speed. But, alas! there was no possibility of travelling at more than a foot's-pace between Mount Olympus and Broussa; all that we could do, therefore, was to commence our homeward journey without a moment's delay, and trust to our lucky stars, both for finding our way, and for getting home dry. On we pressed accordingly, "over bank, bush, and scaur;" but in half an hour we were so completely enveloped in mist that we could not see each other. The guide still moved steadily on, however, like a man who is sure of his path; and I felt no misgivings until, on arriving in the dry bed of a torrent from which the stream had been diverted by some convulsion of nature, he suddenly ceased the wild monotonous melody

ith which he had favoured us for a considerable time, id, turning round in his saddle, remarked quietly: We are lost."

For an instant no one replied. We had each anticipated the probability of such an occurrence, but it was not the less disagreeable when it came to pass. What was to be done? First, the guide was convinced that he had borne too much to the right, and accordingly we all turned our horses in the other direction; when, being close upon a wall of rock that loomed out from the vapour like some bristling fortress, he admitted that this could not be the way, and that consequently he must have inclined too much to the left. We performed a fresh evolution with equal success: the man was fairly bewildered; and meanwhile the vapour was spreading thicker and faster about us.

At length my companion suggested the expediency of shouting aloud, that, in the event of any shepherd or goat-herd being in the neighbourhood, we might procure assistance and information. Shout, accordingly, we did, at the very pitch of our lungs; but the mists were so dense that they stifled the voice, and we were ourselves conscious that we could not be heard at any great distance. After the suspense of a long, weary half-hour, we had just abandoned all hope of help, when a huge dog came bounding out of the vapour, barking furiously, but to us his voice was music, as it assured us of the vicinity of some mountaineer; at the same moment the mists broke partially away, and the guide, uttering an exclamation of joy, suddenly descended a steep bank, and we found ourselves on the skirts of the fir wood, and in the mule-track which we had followed in the morning.

We had scarcely congratulated each other on the termination of our dilemma, and the partial dispersion of the vapours, when a jagged line of serpent-like lightning ran shimmering through the broad flash that

lit up for a second the whole wild scene amid which we were moving; and at the same instant, the loudest and the longest peal broke from the sky to which I ever listened; rock after rock caught up the sound, and flung it back, until the wizard thunder rattled in fainter echoes down into the plain.

It was an awful moment! The terrified animals stood suddenly still, and trembled with affright; but we had no time to waste upon alarm, for, as if conjured by that awful crash, and the wild light by which it was accompanied, down came the imprisoned waters from the mass of vapour that hung above us. I can scarcely call it rain; it was as though a sluice had been let loose upon us, and in an instant we were drenched. Every mountain stream grew suddenly into a torrent—every way-side fountain (and there were many in the forest formed of the hollow trunks of trees), overflowed its basin—the branches against which we brushed in our passage, scattered the huge drops from their leaves—large stones fell rattling down the sides of the mountain; in short, it was as wild a storm as ever inspired the pencil of Salvator Rosa; and its solemnity was deepened by the twilight gloom of the clinging and changeful vapours.

We arrived at Broussa both wet and weary, having been thirteen hours on the road; but, despite all that I suffered, I would not have lost the sublime spectacle on which I gazed from the summit of Mount Olympus, for the enjoyment of a month of luxurious ease. Well might Howitt exclaim, in the gushing out of his pious and poetical nature:—

"Praise be to GOD for the mountains!"

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Armenian Quarter of Broussa—Catholics and Schismatics—Armenian Church—Ugly Saints—Burial Place of the Bishops—Cloisters—Public School—Mode of Rearing the Silk Worms—Difference between the European and the Asiatic Systems—Colour and Quantity of the Produce—Appearance of the Mulberry Woods.

It is a singular fact, that although the Armenian quarter of Broussa contains upwards of a thousand houses which are all inhabited, the number of Catholic families does not amount to fifty; their place of worship is consequently small, and unworthy of description, being merely the chapel attached to a private house, while the Schismatic Church is proportionably handsome. The difference of faith between the two sects hangs upon a single point: the Schismatics deny the double nature of Christ, and are accordingly denounced as heretics by their more orthodox brethren; although they worship the same profusion of saints, weep over the wounds of the same blessed martyrs, and build altars to the same Virgin under all her multitudinous designations.

The Armenian Church of Broussa is very elegant. The altar, which extends along its whole width, is of white marble, highly polished, and divided into three compartments, merely separated from the isles by a simple railing, and is arranged with considerable taste; the sacerdotal plate being interspersed with vases of white lilies. The roof is supported by ten fine columns,

and the floor covered, like that of a mosque, with rich carpets.

The Saints, whose portraits adorn the walls (which are covered with Dutch tiles to the height of the latticed gallery), have been most cruelly treated. I never beheld "the human face divine" so caricatured! A tale is somewhere told of a susceptible young Italian, who became enamoured of the Madonna which adorned his oratory; he might kneel before the whole saintly community of the Armenian Church of Brousa, without a quickening pulse; they would haunt the dreams of an artist like the nightmare! At the base of the pictures, crosses of white marble are incrusted in the masonry, curiously inlaid with coloured stones; and a portable altar, whose plate was enriched with fine turquoises, stood in the centre of the aisle, surmounted by a hideous St. Joseph, glaring out in his ugliness from beneath a drapery of silver muslin.

The church is surrounded on three sides by a noble covered cloister, lined with marble, partially carpeted, and furnished with an altar at each extremity. That on the right hand is the burial place of the Bishops, who lie beneath slabs of marble, elaborately carved; the left hand cloister, into which flows a noble fountain, serves as a sacristy; and the third, situated at the extreme end of the church, is decorated with a dingy Virgin, and a congregation of Saints in very tattered condition, to whom their votaries offer the tribute of lighted tapers, whose numerous remains were scattered about in their immediate vicinity. The women's gallery is handsome and spacious, and is partially overlooked by the windows of the Bishop's Palace; a fine building erected a year ago at an immense expense.

From the church we passed into the public school, where three hundred boys were conning their tasks *under the* superintendence of a single master. Though

we were perfectly unexpected, we did not hear a whisper; every boy was in his place; and the venerable Dominie, with a beard as white as snow, and a head which would have been a study for a painter, rose as we entered, and courteously invited us to take our seats upon the comfortable sofa that occupied the upper end of the hall. The most beautiful cleanliness pervaded the whole establishment; and the boarded floor was rubbed as bright by the constant friction of six hundred little naked feet, as though it had been waxed.

The number of Turkish children now receiving their education in Broussa we could not ascertain, as they are divided among the different mosques; but the Greek Rector, who, in the absence of the Archbishop, interested himself in our comfort and amusement, told me that they had but fifty in their school, although the Greek population of Broussa is tolerably numerous. There is, however, a second description of free school or college, attached to the Greek and Armenian churches, wherein the pupils advance a step in their studies, and prepare themselves for the priesthood, and for commercial pursuits.

Our next object of inquiry was the mode of feeding the silk worms, which produce in the neighbourhood of Broussa an extraordinary quantity of silk. We accordingly visited the establishment of a Frenchman, who exports the raw material to Europe. I was struck by the colour of the silk, which was of a dingy white; and learnt that, despite all the efforts of the feeders, they seldom succeeded in producing any other tint, although the worms are themselves of different qualities and colours, varying from a dead white to a dark brown, and are fed with the leaves of both the red and the white mulberry indiscriminately. The most experienced feeders, however, give a decided preference to the wild white mulberry, of which most of

the plantations about Broussa are formed. The silk, when first spun, is of a clear, silvery, brilliant tint; but submersion in the highly mineralized water of the neighbourhood robs it of its gleam, and reduces it to the dead, dingy colour I have mentioned; and I was assured that in some hundreds of pounds weight of silk, not more than two or three could be met with of yellow.

The Asiatic method of rearing the worm is totally different from that of Europe, and, according to the account given to me, much more profitable in its results, as well as simple in its process. The insect has a natural dislike to being handled, which is inevitable where it is fed day by day, and the withered leaves of the previous morning cleared away; the discomfort produced by the touch rendering the worm lethargic, and retarding its growth. The Asiatics never approach it with the hand: when it is hatched, the floor of the apartment is covered with layers of mulberry branches to about three or four inches in depth; and upon these the insects are laid, and suffered to feed undisturbed until their first sleep, when they are covered by a fresh supply of boughs similar to the first, through which they eat their way, and upon which they subsist until their next change. This operation is repeated four times, always at the period when the worm casts its skin; and on the first appearance of an inclination to spin, boughs of oak, of about four feet in length, stripped of their lower leaves, and planted, if I may so express it, in close ranks in the bed of mulberry branches, form a pigmy forest in which the insects establish themselves, and wherein they produce their silk. Every crevice of the apartment is carefully stopped to prevent the admission of air, and a fire of charcoal ashes is kept up constantly throughout the day and night.

Whether the mode of feeding operates on the colour

ilk, I could not ascertain, though it struck me
experiment would be worth trying; but mean-
t appears to be certain that it greatly increases
ntity, and diminishes the labour of the feeders.
is scarcely a house in the neighbourhood of
which does not contain several apartments
with silk-worms, whose produce is disposed
he spinners, of whom there are a considerable
r in the city; and the far-spreading mulberry
assume in the height of summer the appearance
tches of locust-blighted landscape, every tree
eft a branchless trunk without a sign of foliage.

CHAPTER XIX.

The Cadi's Wife—Singular Custom—Haïsè Hanoum—The Odalique—The Cadi—Noisy Enjoyment—Lying in State—Cachemires—Costume—Unbounded Hospitality of the Wealthy Turks—The Dancing Girl—Saïryn Hanoum—Contrast.

THE wife of the Cadi of Tzèkerghè having given birth to her first-born son, I received an invitation to visit her the same evening, which I accepted, although not without some surprise; and, on expressing my astonishment at her subjecting herself to the intrusion of guests at such a period, I learnt that it is universally the custom, among the wives of the wealthy Turks, to receive company during seven days after the birth of the first son, until midnight; on which occasion they display the most valuable portions of their *trousseau*.

Haïsè Hanoum was a young creature of sixteen, very pretty, and very stupid, who, individually, created no great interest; but she had a rival in the harem, a sweet girl of twelve years of age, with the face of an angel, and the grace of a sylph; who, if the gossipry of the neighbourhood may be relied upon, was no especial favourite with her companion, whose dullness yet left her discrimination enough to be jealous of the superior attractions of the gazel-eyed Odalique. The Cadi himself had reached his eightieth year, and his silver beard would rather have distinguished him as the grandsire than as the husband of these two beautiful young creatures.

I entered the house at eight o'clock in the evening;

and, having traversed the marble court, whose fountain poured forth its limpid waters beneath the shade of a venerable fig-tree, I passed along the latticed terrace of the harem, to the Hanoum's apartment. Long before I reached it, I was deafened with the noise which issued from its open door: the voices of the singing women, the rattle of the tambourines, the laughter of the guests, the shouts of the attendant slaves, the clatter of the coffee and sherbet cups, I could scarcely believe that I was about to be ushered into a sick chamber! At length, the three attendants who had lighted me up stairs, made way for me through the crowd of women who thronged the entrance of the apartment, and one of the most extraordinary scenes presented itself upon which it has ever been my fate to look.

Directly opposite to the door stood the bed of the Hanoum; the curtains had been withdrawn, and a temporary canopy formed of cachemire shawls, arranged in festoons, and linked together with bathing-scarfs of gold and silver tissue; and, as the lady was possessed of fifty, which could not all be arranged, with proper effect, in so limited a space, a silk cord had been stretched along the ceiling to the opposite extremity of the apartment, over which the costly drapery was continued. Fastened to the shawls were head-dresses of coloured gauze, flowered or striped with gold and silver, whence depended oranges, lemons, and candied fruits. Two coverlets of wadded pink satin were folded at the bed's foot; and a sheet of striped crape hung to the floor, where it terminated in a deep fringe of gold.

The infant lay upon a cushion of white satin, richly embroidered with coloured silks, and trimmed like the sheet; and was itself a mass of gold brocade and diamonds. But the young mother principally attracted my attention. As I entered, she was flinging over her child a small *coverlet* of crimson velvet, most gor-

geously wrought with gold; and as the sleeves of her striped satin *antery* and gauze chemisette fell back to the elbow, her white and dimpled arms circled by bracelets of brilliants, and her small hand glittering with jewelled rings, were revealed in all their beauty. Her dark hair was braided in twenty or thirty small plaits, which fell far below her waist, as she leant against a cushion similar to that on which she had pillowed her infant. Her throat was encircled by several rows of immense pearls, whence depended a diamond star, resting upon her bosom; her chemisette was delicately edged by a gold beading, and met at the bottom of her bust, where her vest was confined by a costly shawl. Her head-dress, of blue gauze worked with silver, was studded with diamond sprays, and ornamented with a fringe of large gold coins, which fell upon her shoulders, and almost concealed her brilliant ear-rings. Her satin antery was of the most lively colours, and her salva were of pale pink silk, sprinkled with silver spots. A glass vase of white lilies rested against her pillow, and a fan of peacocks' feathers, and a painted handkerchief, lay beside her. Previously to her confinement, she had plucked out the whole of her eyebrows, and had replaced them by two stripes of black dye, raised about an inch higher upon the forehead. This is a common habit with the Turkish women on great occasions; and they nowhere display more coquetry, or more decided bad taste, than in the arrangement of their eyebrows, which they paint in all kinds of fantastic shapes; sometimes making them meet across the nose, and sometimes raising them at the outer point to the temples! I have seen many a pretty woman destroyed by this whim.

I was conducted, with great ceremony, to the sofa, when I had saluted the Hanoum, and uttered my "Mashallah" as I leant over the infant, which (poor *little thing*!) was almost smothered in finery; and

having taken my seat, I had time to contemplate the singular scene around me.

I have alluded elsewhere to the facility with which the working classes of Turkey obtain access into the houses of the wealthy. On every occasion of rejoicing, the door is open to all; it is the sofa only which is sacred; but the poor share in all the enjoyments of the festival; the coffee and sherbet is served to them, if not with the same ceremony, at least with the same welcome, as to the prouder guests; they listen to the music; they mingle in the conversation; they join in the gaiety; and they are never made to feel that their lot is cast in a more lowly rank than that of their entertainer.

On the present occasion the floor was thronged. Mothers were there with their infants at their breasts, for whose entire costume you would not have given fifty piastres; and whose sunburnt arms and naked feet bore testimony to a life of toil. A group of children were huddled together, at the bed's foot; a throng of singing-women occupied the extreme end of the apartment; the mother of the young wife sat beside the pillow of her child, dressed in a vest and trousers of white, with a large handkerchief of painted muslin flung loosely over her turban; the lovely little Odalique, totally unheeded, squatted on the ground at my feet; half a dozen stately Hanoums were seated on the crimson velvet sofa, leaning against its gorgeous cushions, and some of them engaged with the chibouque. But the most attractive object in the apartment was the dancing-girl, who occupied the centre of the floor.

I have rarely beheld any thing more beautiful; and, with the exception of the daughter of the Seodra Pasha, I had seen no woman in the country who could be compared with her. On my entrance she had been beating *the tambourine;* and as, out of respect for the

Frank visitor, the music was momentarily suspen
she remained in the attitude she had assumed when
first caught sight of me. Her arms were raised ab
her head, and her open sleeves fell back almost to
shoulder; her delicate little feet were bare, and o
partially revealed beneath the large loose trousers
dark silk; a chemisette of gauze, richly fringed, r
lieved the sombre tint of her tightly-fitting antery, an
a shawl of the most glowing colours bound her slend
waist; her head-dress was nearly similar to that wor
in the Imperial Seraïs; a painted handkerchief wa
folded round her forehead, whose deep fringe fell lo
upon her cheeks; part of her long hair was dishevelled,
and spread wide upon the summit of her head, and the
rest, formed into innumerable little plaits, was looped
about her shoulders. A large bunch of white lilies
drooped gracefully above her right ear, and her figure
was bent slightly backward, in the easiest attitude in
the world.

She was assuredly very lovely; but it was not genuine Oriental beauty. Her large full eyes were as blue and bright as a summer sky, when the heavens are full of sunshine; her nose was *à la Roxalane;* and she had a pretty pout about her little cherry-coloured lips, worth half a dozen smiles.

I could not help expressing my surprise at the style of her *coïffure*, as I had never before seen it so worn, except in the Imperial Palaces; when I was informed that the Sultan, having accidentally seen her mother, who far exceeded the daughter in beauty, became so enthralled by her extreme loveliness as to make her an inmate of his harem, where she still remains.

When I had seated myself, the dancer suddenly suffered her arms to fall by her side, and flinging the tambourine to one of the singing-women, she clapped her hands, and a couple of slaves entered with coffee. *One* bore a large silver salver, from which depended a

napkin of golden tissue, richly fringed w
cups of glittering porcelain, and the si
holders neatly arranged upon its surface: a
carried a weighty sherbet-vase of wrought si
as classically as that of Hebe herself.

I never saw any woman so light or so grac
lovely dancing-girl. She had the spring
and the foot of a fawn. As she presented
she laid her hand first upon her lips and then
head, with an elegance which I have sel
equalled; and then bounding back into her
twirled the tambourine in the air with the pl
of a child; and, having denoted the measure,
it to one of the women, who immediately con
a wild chant, half song and half recitative, w
at times caught up in chorus by the others,
times wailed out by the dancer only, as sh
lated the movements of her willow-like figure
modulations of the music. The Turkish women
very little with the feet; it is the grace a
displayed in the carriage of the body and arm
form the perfection of their dancing; the rapi
ping of the fingers, meanwhile, producing the
castanets.

Even at the risk of making a portrait ga
my chapter, I must mention the magnificent
Hanoum, who shortly afterwards entered the
nent. She was in the autumn of her beauty,
must have been eight or nine and twenty, a
eriod the women of the East begin to declin
hat an autumn! Could you only have clip
ings of Time for the future, you would n
ished her to be a day younger. She was da
rk: almost a Bohemian in complexion; h
v the rich blood coursing along her veins,
clear skin; her eyes were like the storm
in which the lightning flashes at inter

hair was as black as midnight; her teeth were dazz
and her brow—it was a brow which should have
circled by a diadem, for it was already stamped
Nature's own regality. She was tall, even stat
and the dignity of her step accorded well with
fire of her dark eye, and the proud expression t
sat upon her lip, and dilated her thin delicate nost
Her costume was as striking as her person; and, h
she studied during a century how best to enhance h
beauty, she could never have more perfectly succeeded
Her vest and trousers were of the most snowy muslin
she wore neither diamond nor pearl; but the hand-
kerchief was fastened about her head with a chain of
large gold coins, which, being threaded upon a silken
cord, formed a fringe that rested upon her forehead;
and a necklace of the same material fell low upon her
bosom. The Turkish women of rank have universally
very sweet voices—hers was music.

On glancing back upon what I have written, I fear
that much of it may be condemned as hyperbole, or
at best as exaggeration. I only wish that they who
are sceptical could look for an instant upon Saïryn
Hanoum; they would confess that I have done her
less than justice.

En révanche, the floor was crowded with withered
old women and stupid children: the atmosphere was
impregnated with onions, tobacco, and garlic; and
the noise was deafening! The singing women shouted
at intervals at the very pitch of their voices; the in-
fants cried with weariness and fright; the impatient
guests demanded coffee and sherbet as unceremo-
niously as though they had been at a public kiosque,
and much more rapidly than they could be supplied;
and the ringing rattle of the tambourine kept up a
running accompaniment of discord.

Altogether the scene was a most extraordinary one;
and I compelled myself to remain a couple of hours

ıe guest of Haïsè Hanoum in order to contemplate at my leisure. The same ceremonies, the same nusements, and the same noise, continued until mid-ight, during the whole of the seven days; when the ırem doors were once more shut against such general ıtrusion, and the young mother left to enjoy the pose which she required.

CHAPTER XX.

Tzèkerghè—Bustling Departure—Turkish *Patois*—Waiting Ma and Serving Men—Characteristic Cavalcade—Chapter of Ac dents—Train of Camels—Halt of the Caravan—Violent Sto —Archbishop of Broussa—The Old Palace—Reception Room Priestly Humility—Greek Priests—Worldly and Monas Clergy—Morals of the Papas—Asiatic Pebbles—Moudania Idleness of the Inhabitants—Decay of the Town—Policy of t Turkish Government—Departure for Constantinople.

WHEN we had exhausted the "lions" of Broussa, w removed to Tzèkerghè for the benefit of the bath and, after having enjoyed for a few weeks all th luxury of sulphuric vapour, we prepared for o return to the capital.

The confusion incident on our departure from th village was most amusing; and, as our party was numerous one, we were all on foot by three o'clock i the morning. *Serudjhes* were shouting and quarre ling about missing bridles, and ill-poised paniers Greek servants, supreme in their knowledge of th Asiatic Turkish, which is a species of *patois* almo unintelligible even to Constantinopolitan Turks, we hectoring and finding fault; waiting-maids we screaming in defence of bandboxes and dressing-case and all the inhabitants of the hamlet were looking o and favouring us with their comments. The mornin salutations were drowsy enough, for there are fe things more dreary than a day-break dialogue; th *perfumed* coffee was swallowed almost in silence; an *at length* the procession set forth.

Nothing could be more characteristic than the appearance of our caravan, as we wound down the mountain path; bullock cars laden with luggage creaked and rattled over the rocky road; led horses carrying bedding and provisions were scattered along the way-side; and thirteen mounted individuals, as ill-assorted to the eye as can well be imagined, completed the party. Two Greek ladies, mounted *en cavalier*, one wearing an ample white turban, and both having their feet enveloped in shawls; three men servants perched on the top of great coats and cloaks, and armed with chibouques and umbrellas; two Greek *femmes de chambre*, mounted like their mistresses; my father, myself, and three gentlemen, with our English, Viennese, and Tartar saddles; altogether formed a spectacle which would not have passed unobserved in the West.

My own horse, a powerful animal, that went like the wind, was almost blinded by crimson and gold tassels; a Turkish inhabitant of Tzèkerghè having insisted on replacing the ill-conditioned bridle provided by the post-master, with the elaborate head-gear of his own animal; while my saddle was gilt over a flaming horsecloth of blue and scarlet. Some of the party were less fortunate, both as regarded their horses and accoutrements; but, once upon the road, our spirits rose with the bright sun which was beginning to light up the glorious scene around us; and, when we had descended into the plain, and passed the romantic fountain of Adzem Tzèsmèssi, the most energetic among us were soon galloping right and left among the trees, gathering the wild hollyhocks, and scattering, as we passed, the yellow blossoms of the barberry bushes.

Our enjoyment was not uninterrupted, however, for the whole journey was a chapter of accidents; *one servant lost her* turban; another her umbrella; a

third rode a lazy hack, that lay down with her three times during the day; while, to complete the list of misfortunes, a young Austrian gentleman, resolving that our departure from Broussa should be signalized by some *éclat*, with a want of reflection which he afterwards bitterly repented, threw a rocket among the burning tobacco that he flung from his chibouque by the way-side, which exploded with a violence that unhorsed one lady of the party, and left us for some time in doubt whether she had not paid the penalty of his folly with her life.

There was a general halt as soon as it could be effected, for several of the animals were almost unmanageable from fright; when all those domestic remedies were applied which could be commanded at such a moment, in order to recover the sufferer from the deadly faint into which she had fallen; and, after the delay of about half an hour, when the *serudjhe* had duly emptied a bottle of water on the spot where the accident had taken place, in order to prevent its recurrence, the unfortunate lady was, with considerable difficulty, lifted once more upon her horse; and, with an attendant at her bridle-rein, resumed her journey.

Nor did our misadventures end here; for, just before we entered the town of Moudania, a gentleman, who was riding along with my father and myself, fell back a few paces to discharge his travelling pistols, when one of them burst in his hand nearly the whole length of the barrel, but fortunately without doing him any injury.

During our journey across the principal plain, we came in contact with a caravan, which had made a temporary halt by the way-side. It consisted of between forty and fifty camels, attended by their drivers, and accompanied by half a dozen formidable *looking* dogs. I never encountered anything more

picturesque. Some of the animals were browsing on the young shoots of the dwarf oak; others were standing lazily with their long necks bent downwards, and their eyes closed: while the more weary among them were lying on the earth, as though sinking under the weight of their burthens. Their drivers—a wild, ferocious-looking horde—were resting beneath the shade of some cloaks which they had stretched across the bushes, and smoking their chibouques; leaving the care of the drove to their watchful dogs. We echoed the brief but earnest salutation of the wilderness as we passed; and, then urging on our horses, the halt of the caravan was soon a distant object in the landscape.

A violent storm had been slowly gathering throughout the day; and we had scarcely taken possession of the house which had been secured for us at Moudania, when it burst over the town. The mountains of the opposite coast were covered with dense vapours; the sea beat violently against the houses that fringed the shore; the thunder rattled in long continued peals among the heights; the lightning danced along the foam-crested billows; and the narrow street became the channel of a torrent.

The rain had only partially abated when a priest was announced, who bore to my father and myself an invitation from the Archbishop, to whom our arrival had been already made known; and, weary as we were, we resolved to avail ourselves of it, accompanied by a gentleman and lady of the party, who were kind enough to offer themselves as interpreters.

The old Palace, with its noble flights of marble stairs, and paintings in arabesque, delighted me; and there was a solemn twilight throughout the whole suite of apartments along which we passed, lined with serious-looking papas* in attendance on His Holiness, that

* Priests.

pleased me far better, travel-worn and weary as I was, than the gaud and glitter so usual in the residences of high personages in the East.

The Archbishop himself met us at the head of the last staircase; and, when we had kissed his hand, he led us forward to his reception-room; a vast, sombre-looking apartment, richly painted and carved, surrounded, on three sides, by a divan of purple cloth, and provided with a second and lower sofa, for the convenience of those among the clergy to whom he gave audience. The expression of his countenance was intellectual rather than handsome, and he was singularly graceful in his movements; his flowing beard was beginning to show traces of age; but his clear, quick eye, and his placid brow, almost belied the inference. He seemed eager to obtain political information; and was much interested in the insight which we were enabled to give him of the institutions and manufactures of England. His library was extremely limited, and entirely theological; and his knowledge was evidently rather the result of his shrewd sense, and great natural talents, than the effect of education. I never regretted more sincerely, than on this occasion, my ignorance of the Greek language; for the necessity of an interpreter deadens the wit and destroys the interest of a dialogue like that in which we were soon engaged; and many a remark or sentiment, that would pass current in common conversation, becomes mere impertinence and folly when twice expressed.

Nothing could exceed the courtesy of our reception; and even the sweet, weak, milkless tea which was served to us, was kindly meant, as it was supposed to be in the English style; although, individually, I suffered severely from the mistake. But I was considerably amused by observing that the chibouques of the gentlemen, and the tea of the ladies, were both handed round by the young priests of the Archbishop's household, who obeyed the

ping of his hands as instantaneously, and much
e meekly, than an English footman answers the bell
is mistress.

evoted from their birth to the service of the Church,
Greek Priests are educated in obedience and humi-
; and have all learnt to obey ere they are placed in
tuation to command. Having taken orders, they
in some degree the masters of their actions, from
fact that there are two distinct classes of clergy, and
; they are at liberty to make their own selection. The
, called the monastic clergy, cannot marry, but, en-
ly devoted to the duties of their profession, are eligible
ll its highest dignities; while the second, or worldly
gy, who are fettered by no restriction of the kind,
not rise beyond the rank of rectors or parish priests.
se latter are distinguished by the black handkerchief
nd about their caps, which is never worn by the
nastic order.

t will be easily understood that the number of mar-
l priests is very limited. Few men sacrifice their
ition to their affections, particularly among the
eks, who are all essentially ambitious; and to many
whom the road to advancement is so frequently
le straight by intrigue and cabal. Added to
consideration, the ideas and practice of morality
ong the Greek clergy being notoriously more lax
n altogether accords with the holiness of their pro-
ion, they prefer the equivocal liberty of celibacy;
le, in the few instances wherein they make their
unes subservient to their domestic comfort, they
versally select the most beautiful women of their
ion; as there scarcely exists a family who would
ise their daughter to a priest, should he demand
for his wife.

After having passed two pleasant hours with the amia-
e Prelate, and reluctantly declined his polite invita-
n to avail ourselves of his table during our detention

at Moudania, we returned home, only to witne
newed gathering of the storm-clouds, and to lis
dash of the billows against the foundations of t

One little incident alone served to divert
time, from our ennui. The waiting-maid of
whom I have mentioned as having been thro
her horse, during the journey to the coast, had
by our arrival at Moudania to get herself exor
a priest; so terrified had she been at the acciden
mistress, which she attributed entirely to the in
of the Evil Eye. Secure in the impunity that sh
thus purchased for a few piastres, she was pursui
avocations somewhat more vivaciously than her
when she fell from the top of the stairs to the bo
with a force which shook the frail wooden tenemen
its foundations. Merriment succeeded to our al
however, when, on raising herself from the floor,
began to exclaim vehemently against the inefficac
the ceremony that she had so lately undergone;
was our amusement diminished when, in reply to
raillery, she declared that, even if she *had* thrown aw
her money, she was in no worse plight than her lad
who had paid much more dearly for the same privile
before she left Broussa, though it had availed her s
less. Shouts of laughter followed the announcement
this hitherto carefully-guarded secret; and I do
think that I shall ever hear of an Exorcist again, wit
out having before my eyes the portly person of Mada
———, extended on the earth; and a party of rout
equestrians galloping hither and thither over the v
plain of Broussa, wherever their affrighted horses we
for the first few minutes disposed to carry them.

The following day was less unfavourable, but t
wind was so high and the sky so wild that no boat cou
put to sea. In this dilemma, we amused ourselv
by wandering along the beach, and collecting jaspe
agates, and pebbles: and in making a tour of the tow

which is miserable enough, and stamped with all the marks of premature decay.

The inhabitants of Moudania are celebrated for their slothfulness. The town is seated on the edge of a gulf, which would alone suffice to the sustenance of the whole of its population, and they are the worst fishermen in Turkey. The surrounding country is fertile and rich; nature has been lavish in her gifts, and yet their agriculture is conducted in the most slovenly and inefficient manner. It is a continual struggle between the luxuriance of the soil, and the idleness of the husbandman; and, fortunately for the latter, nature, after all, has the best of it, for the lofty hills are feathered to their very summits with vegetation: olive trees and vines clothe the valleys; sparkling streams descend from the mountains; rich pasturages afford sustenance to the numerous flocks; and goodly forest trees provide fuel for their owners. But Moudania and its environs instantly reminded me of Cowper's expressive line:—

"God made the country, but man made the town,"

for man, left to himself, never more fully displayed his insufficiency than here. The commerce in oil is very considerable, not less than a hundred and fifty thousand okes being produced yearly; silk-worms are reared in almost every house in the place; wine is plentiful; and there is a continual intercourse with the European coast; and yet, notwithstanding all these advantages, Moudania is falling to decay. In vain has the Turkish Government, with a consideration and good policy by which it is not usually distinguished, lightened, and indeed almost entirely removed, all the local imposts; the same slowly progressing ruin still wears its way. On every side the houses are perishing for want of *repair*, the streets are encumbered with

filth, the shops are almost empty, and
is in a state of stagnation. The depa
dozen caiques for Constantinople suffic
the inhabitants to their windows, or to t
had you not already received proof t
you would then imagine, by the shoutin
confusion, that the population of Moud
the most energetic under heaven; but
sails are set and the boats departed, t
rates lazily, the noise dies away, and
desolation once more broods over the
town.

In this miserable place we were detai
and on the morning of the fourth, our p
on board three of their beautiful boats,
probably for ever, to the shores of Mou

CHAPTER XXI.

Death in the Revel—Marriage of the Princess Mihirmâh—The Imperial Victim—The First Lover—Court Cabal—Policy of the Seraskier—The Second Suitor—The Miniature—The Last Gift—Interview between the Sultan and Mustapha Pasha.

It is strange how often events, which to the crowd appear redolent of joy and happiness, are to the principal actors replete with heartburning and misery—how, what is a pageant to the many may be a penance to the few; and how the triumphant acclaim of the multitude may be hollowly echoed back in bitterness from the depths of a bereaved and stricken spirit. The price of greatness must be paid, even although it should be in the coinage of despair, wrung slowly, through a long life, like blood-drops from the heart; and it is well for the shouting, holyday-seeking crowd, that the gaunt spectre of reality is not permitted, like the skeleton of the Egyptian banquets, to take its seat at the feast, and startle them into a knowledge of the heavy price paid for the "funeral-baked meats" of their empoisoned revel!

Only a few weeks had elapsed since Constantinople had held a general holyday; since her joy had been written in characters of fire; and her tens of thousands had collected together, like one vast family, to celebrate the same happy event. Who that looked around and about him during the marriage festivities of the Imperial Bride of Said Pasha—the young, the fair, the *high-born* maiden, descended from a long

line of Emperors, "born in the purple," and on whom no sunbeam had been suffered to rest, lest it should mar the brightness of her beauty—who could have guessed, amid the flashing of jewels, the echo of compliments, and the lavish congratulation by which he was surrounded, that the idol to whom all this incense was offered up was already lying shivered at the foot of the altar on which it had been reared?—That the roses of the bridal wreath had fallen leaf by leaf, withered by the burning of the brow they encircled? and that the victim of an empire's holyday was seated, heart-stricken and despairing, in her latticed apartment, weeping hot tears over her compulsatory sacrifice?

And yet thus it was: — even I myself, when the rumour reached me, that, had the Princess been free to choose from among the many who sighed for, without venturing to aspire to, her hand, she would have made another selection,—even I, remembering only that she was an oriental, and forgetting that she was also a woman,—never doubted for an instant that she would resign herself to her fate with true Turkish philosophy, and find consolation for a passing disappointment in the gaud and glitter of her new state. But it was not so: the arrow had been driven home, and the wound was mortal!

Two long years had elapsed since the Sultan had announced to her his intention of bestowing her hand on Mustapha Pasha of Adrianople; and she had received with indifference the intimation of a resolve which made the heart of the Sultana-mother throb with maternal pride. But ere long the fair Princess herself learnt to believe that her constellation had been a happy one; and to listen with smiling attention to the flattering accounts which the ladies of the Imperial Harem failed not to pour into her willing *ears of the* Pasha's wealth, influence, and great per-

sonal beauty. The singing-women improvised in his honour, with all the gorgeous hyperbole of the East; the *massaldjhes** told tales of his wisdom and valour that brought a brighter light to the dark eyes of their listener; and ultimately the Sultan forwarded to his daughter a miniature likeness of her intended bridegroom.

Then it was that the Princess became convinced that the personal qualifications of the Pasha had been by no means exaggerated even by his most partial chroniclers; and the young beauty sat for hours, amid her embroidered cushions, silently gazing on the portrait which she held in her hand, and marvelling whether she should look as fair in the eyes of her destined lord as he already seemed in her own. She was not long to remain in her doubt; for the Pasha, to whom his good fortune had been communicated by his Imperial Master, obeyed the summons that called him to the capital, and forwarded to his high-born mistress his first costly offering.

The heart of the Princess beat high. He was in Stamboul! The wife of the meanest *camal*† might look on him as his shadow fell upon her in the streets of the city; while she, his affianced bride, could only picture him to her fancy by gazing on the cold inanimate ivory. She turned from the diamonds that her slaves had officiously displayed upon the sofa on which she sat; they came from him, it was true, but they told no tale of love; they were the offering of ceremony; the tribute of the honoured Pasha to his honouring bride; they had pleased her fancy, but they had not touched her heart.

Night spread her sable robe upon the waters; the channel lay hushed, for the soft wind failed to disturb the ripple over which it lightly skimmed; the Sultana-

* *Professional story*-tellers. † Street-porter.

mother and the affianced Princess were dwelling in the gilded saloons of the Asiatic Harem; in the fairy palace of Beglierbey, and the slaves had long been hushed in sleep; and it was at this still hour that the dark-eyed daughter of the Sultan, who had been leaning against the lattices of an open window, listening to the nightingales, and weaving sweet fancies into a graceful web of thought, turned from the casement to seek the rest which she had hitherto neglected to secure; when, as she moved away, a sound of distant oars fell on her ear, and with a vague feeling of curiosity she paused and listened.

A solitary caïque neared the palace, and stopped beneath the terrace of the Harem: there was no moon; and the clear stars, which were dropped in silver over the purple mantle of the sky, did not betray the secret of the bold midnight visitor. The princess bent her ear eagerly against the lattice: her brow flushed, and her breath came quick—her heart had not deceived her—it was indeed the Pasha; and soon a soft strain of music swelled upon the air; and words of passion blending with the melody, taught her that this was his first spirit-offering to his bright young love.

Oh! how, as she stood beside the casement, did she sigh for moonlight, when, despite the envious lattices, she might have looked upon her princely lover, and written his image on her heart! But the song ceased, and the caïque slowly dropped down with the current, and she scarcely knew, when she at length withdrew to the innermost recesses of her chamber, whether all had not been a dream.

Time passed on, and the wish of the fair Princess was accomplished. She had looked upon the Pasha, as his gilded boat passed lingeringly beneath the Imperial terrace: she had seen him as his proud steed curvetted gracefully under the palace windows; she *had beheld* him by the light of a bright moon when no

eye save hers was on him, and his low, soft accents came sweetly to her ear on the evening wind; and she had learnt to love him with all the fervour of a first affection. Now, indeed, she valued every gift which came to her from him, not because he made the world pay tribute to charm her fancy, but because he had first seen and approved the offering.

And the Pasha learned that he was loved; the rose withering in the hot sun amid the lattice-work of the Princess's window; the long lock of dark hair waving in the wind beside it; the little flower which sometimes fell into the water beside the caïque during his midnight and solitary visit, told him the tale that he most wished to hear. It is even said that on one occasion he actually beheld by accident the face of his betrothed wife: be this as it may, however, it is certain that Mustapha Pasha returned to his Pashalik at Adrianople with his mind and thoughts full of the Princess Mihirmàh, and with little taste for the delay which was yet to take place ere his marriage.

The departure of the Pasha was the signal for court intrigue and court cabal, for the determination of the Sultan had spread dismay among the most influential of the nobles, who could ill brook the prospect of so dangerous a rival near the throne as the powerful and popular Mustapha Pasha. At the head of this party was the Seraskier, whose influence over the Sultan had long been unbounded, whose wealth had purchased friends, and whose favour had silenced enemies. He it was who first taught the light of Imperial favour to shine on Halil Pasha, who had originally been a groom in his own stables; and who ultimately determined Mahmoud to receive his *protégé* as the husband of his eldest daughter; a subtle stroke of policy which secured to him a firm adherent, knit to his cause by every *bond of self-interest* and gratitude; for the husband of the Princess Sulihè was the adopted son of the

Seraskier, the object of his munificence, and the sharer in his fortunes.

Thus, in lieu of a rival, whom his connection with the Imperial family might have rendered dangerous, the old and wily courtier secured a new and influential ally, prompt to adopt his views and to further his ambition. The proposed marriage of the younger Princess involved the same risks, and demanded the same precautions; and it was consequently not without emotion that the Seraskier learnt from the lips of the Sultan that Mustapha Pasha was to be the new bridegroom.

He smiled as he heard it, and uttered the usual empty and meaningless compliment of congratulation; but his heart obeyed not the prompting of his words; and, as he left the presence, he vowed a voiceless vow, that with the help of Allah, the Governor of Adrianople should never be the husband of the Princess Mihirmah; for the more he reflected on the subject, the more he felt the necessity of exerting all his energies to prevent the domestication of Mustapha Pasha at Court.

Young and handsome, he would be all-powerful with his Imperial bride. Wealthy and high-spirited, he would neither from necessity nor inclination be amenable to his dictation. Proverbially amiable, and chivalrously generous, he was already the idol of his province, and would soon become that of the capital; while his grasp of intellect and soundness of judgment would render it equally impossible to degrade him into a dupe, or to use him as a tool.

Thus, then, the experienced courtier, whose career has been perhaps without parallel in Turkish history; whose beard has grown grey under the shadow of the Imperial throne; who has seen a hundred favourites rise into greatness, flourish for a brief season, and *finally leave* their dishonoured heads to bleach beneath *a fierce sun*, impaled above the fatal Orta Kapoussi,

or Middle Gate of the Seraglio, or niched in gory grandeur beside the gilded entrance of the Sublime Porte; who throughout his long career has never failed in any important undertaking—the experienced courtier at once decided that Mustapha Pasha must not be permitted to fill a station which would invest him with the privilege of thwarting his own plans, or of opposing his own party.*

Every Bey of the Imperial Household was in the interest of the Seraskier. It could not well be otherwise; for, during the long years of unchecked prosperity and unfailing favour which I have described, it will be readily conceived that there was not an individual among them who was not indebted to him for some benefit, which could be repaid only by devotion to his wishes.

Nor were there wanting many among the Pashas themselves, who were easily taught to look with distrust and suspicion on the threatened rivalry of the young and high-spirited Mustapha; and who readily enlisted in the adverse party. Suffice it that the intrigue prospered; the Sultan first insisted—then wavered—and finally, driven, despite himself, to a compromise with the nobles in immediate contact with his person, ultimately proposed the extraordinary expedient to which I have already alluded; and, with a weakness of purpose for which it were difficult to account in a despotic monarch, determined to cast the obloquy of irresolution from his own shoulders by leaving the fortunes of his daughter in the hands of Fate—that blind divinity in whom the Turks put such implicit trust, and on whom they philosophically fling the odium of every untoward circumstance.

* It is an extraordinary coincidence that at the moment in which this work is passing through the press, intelligence has arrived in Europe of the disgrace of this hitherto favoured *individual: the prostration* of a life-long ambition.

One stipulation he, however, made; that the nam
of Mustapha Pasha should be among the seven chos
ones from whom the *felech* of the Princess was t
select her a husband; and, having thus quieted h
Imperial conscience, he made his *namaz* with s
proper solemnity, ere he calmly drew from benea
his prayer-carpet the name of Mohammed Said Pash

But the affections cannot change so lightly as t
will; and when it was announced to the young Pri
cess that she was to receive a new suitor, and to bani
all memory of him whom she had so long learnt
love, she sank beneath the tidings; and rejected t
consolations which were officiously poured forth by h
attendants. The Sultana-mother wept and entreate
but for the first time her tears and her entreaties w
alike vain: the Princess only turned aside in despairi
silence, or bade them leave her to die alone, since de
was all that remained to her. Hours passed awa
hours of dull, aching anguish, that wrung and withe
her young heart; and they brought her food, but s
put it aside with loathing—and darkness came; but
yielded no rest to her; and on the morrow her d
eyes and haggard cheek so terrified the Sultana t
she at once decided on communicating to her Impe
partner the effect of his decision.

The Sultan came, and used every blandishment th
could win, and every threat that could terrify; b
he failed to wrench the young fond heart from
allegiance. The same trite commonplaces which
instinctively to the lips of all domestic despots,
they Christians or Islamites, were duly set forth;
love spurns at argument; and the Princess only repl
by falling senseless into the arms of her slaves. D
of suffering followed, during which she lay like
blighted flower upon her cushions; hoping one m
ment against reason; and the next resigning her
without a struggle to the deepest anguish of despair

Time wore on, and at length she learnt that her destined husband had arrived in the capital! Then came the gifts of the new suitor, and the ceremonies of the betrothal; and she knew and felt that there was indeed no longer any hope. The conviction was too much for her young strength; and the courtiers were pouring forth their offerings, and the Pashas of the provinces were pressing forward with their congratulations, while the victim of state policy was lying on a sick bed, surrounded by tears and lamentations.

And thus they decked her for the bridal, and carried her forth in her gilded carriage to her new home; and she submitted passively, for she knew that it was in vain to oppose her destiny. But when the proud and happy Said Pasha had borne her in his arms to the state saloon of the harem, preceded by dancing-girls, and fair slaves glittering with jewels, and swinging censers of costly incense upon her path, and had seated her on the brocaded divan only to throw himself at her feet, and to vow himself to an existence of fond and grateful obedience to her every wish; then did the woman-heart of the Princess flash forth as she sternly commanded him to leave her. The Pasha obeyed not; he believed this coldness to be only a caprice of his Imperial bride, and he lost himself in all the lover-like hyperbole which he doubted not would be expected from him.

But the young bridegroom was not long suffered to be deluded by so flattering a deceit, for the reply of the Princess to his protestations was too direct and convincing, to admit of his indulging the faintest doubt of his misfortune. Around her neck she wore a slight chain, wrought in dark silk, similar to those to which the Turkish ladies commonly attach an amulet; and for all answer she withdrew this chain, and revealed to the heart-stricken Pasha the portrait of her *first suitor.*

"It was the Sultan's gift," she said firmly; "I was told that he was to be my husband, and they taught me to love him; I loved him ere I knew that such a being as Said Pasha lived; I shall love him so long as this heart has power to beat against his likeness. I will not deceive you; I can look on you only with loathing: my fate is sealed; I shall soon lie in the tomb of my fathers. Inshallàh—I trust in God—life is not eternal, and the broken heart ceases at last to suffer."

Said Pasha had triumphed: he had won an Imperial bride; but he was a blighted man. He had seen Mustapha Pasha ride in the marriage train which did honour to his own nuptials; but a few hours only had elapsed ere he envied his discomfited rival the comparative happiness of freedom.

That rival was, however, far from being reconciled to his fate, irrevocable as it was. He forgot that he had lost a proud bride in the memory of her youth, her beauty, and her affection. He lingered near her regal dwelling at midnight to catch the reflection of a taper through the lattices of one of its many windows, trusting that he might chance to look upon the light which beamed on her. His marriage gift was the most costly of all that glittered in her *trousseau*; and he saw the different Pashas, who had been called to court to swell the pageant, depart to their provinces, without possessing the courage to follow their example.

Many wondered why Mustapha Pasha, who was supreme at Adrianople, remained in comparative subserviency at Stamboul; and all whispered mysteriously of the change which had come over his nature. He was still urbane and courteous, with a gracious word and a ready smile for all; but the words came less freely, and the smiles were fainter, and even wore at times a tinge of bitterness.

It was about three weeks subsequent to the Imperial

marriage that an Armenian jeweller complet
the most costly brilliant ornaments which
been seen, even in the Bezenstein of Const
A mass of immense diamonds were clustered
in its centre in the form of a taper, at whose
a flame was burning brightly; and this d
surrounded by a wreath of ivy leaves, amid
moth was nestled, mounted upon an elast
that at the slightest motion threw the insect
flame.

This noble jewel was, immediately on its co
carried to the palace of Mustapha Pasha,
was transported to the harem of the Prin
trusty messenger. No written word accomp
gift; it told its own tale; and four-and-twe
had not elapsed from the time in which the "
bride" clapsed it in her turban, ere it was
to Mustapha Pasha that he had the permiss
Sublime Highness to return to his Pashalik
convenient speed.

On the morrow he requested his parting a
the Sultan, when Mahmoud, probably regrett
looked upon the noble-minded Mustapha, t
which he had been compelled to do him,
him as he was in the act of kissing his foot,
tending towards him his Imperial hand, said
"Forget the past; it was not the will of A
my intention in your favour should be fulfi
bear with you my assurance that the esteem
have long felt for you is undiminished. Your
is required at Adrianople; I am perfectly
with your government; and two years hence
recall you to Stamboul, to bestow on you th
my youngest daughter."

The Pasha relinquished his hold of the
fingers: the blood mounted to his brow, w
there, and the tone was proud, even to

with which he answered: "I obey the orders of yo
Highness: by to-morrow's dawn I shall be on my w
to my Pashalik; while I have life I will do my du
to my Sultan and to my province; but I shall neve
again aspire to make the happiness of an Imperia
Princess; were I ten times more worthy than I am,
still should I be no meet husband for a Sultan's
daughter. May the blessing of Allah rest on the re-
presentative of the Prophet; and may the hour not be
far distant when Mustapha Pasha may lay down in the
service of his sovereign a life which has now become
valueless!"

The high-hearted noble departed from the court,
bearing with him the memory of his passion and of
his wrong. The Seraskier sought to console the dis-
appointed bridegroom by heaping upon him the most
munificent gifts; and the Princess, in the solitude of
her harem, yet wastes her hours in tears, gazing upon
the portrait of her lost lover, and imploring of the Pro-
phet an early deliverance from the anguish of a break-
ing heart! Within eighteen months after my return
from Constantinople she had ceased to exist!

CHAPTER XXII.

Yenekeui—The Festival of Fire—Commemorative Observance—Fondness of the Orientals for Illumination—Frequency of Fires in Constantinople—Dangerous Customs—Fire Guard—The Sernskier's Tower—Disagreeable Alarum—Namik Pasha—The Festival Localized—Veronica—Bonfires—Therapia and Buyukdere—Singular Effect of Light—The Armenian Heroine—A Wild Dream.

SHORTLY after our return from Broussa, we took possession of a house which we had rented for the summer at Yenekeui, and we had only been established there a few days when we had an opportunity of witnessing one of the most ancient of the Greek commemorative usages; the "Festival of Fire;" instituted in memory of the second capture of Constantinople by the Cæsars.

Some years ago, the Greek quarter of the city was illuminated on this anniversary, as well as the villages occupied principally by their nation: but the Turks no longer permit this demonstration of rejoicing, as well from jealousy of its subject as from the danger attendant on all such manifestations in a city where fires are so frequent, and the nature of the buildings so unfortunately calculated to encourage the evil.

For my own part, after having passed a few nights in Constantinople, both in Turkish and Greek houses, I was only surprised that the frightful conflagrations which so frequently occur do not take place every week instead of ten or twelve times a year. Like the hus-

bandman who plants his vines, and sows his grain at the base of a volcano, apparently unconscious or careless that the next eruption may lay waste his lands, and negative his labour, the inhabitants of Stamboul appear never to reflect that fire is one of their deadliest enemies, but wander over their wooden dwellings with their lighted chibouques, or their unsnuffed candles, as heedlessly as though both were innoxious; while their attendants traverse carpeted and curtained apartments, carrying fragments of live coal between their iron pincers to supply the pipes.

Nor is this all. The Tandour is a fire-conductor of the first class: the wooden frame that covers the charcoal ashes is frequently very slight, and the silken draperies which veil it are generally lined with cotton, and not unfrequently wadded with the same inflammable material. The effect of the Tandour is highly soporific; and it consequently occurs that persons who fall asleep under its influence, by some sudden movement, overturn the frame-work, when their own clothes, as well as the coverings of the Tandour, come in contact with the hidden fire: the chintz-covered sofas are ready to feed the flame, and the natural consequence ensues.

Still more dangerous is the system of drying linen during the winter, which is universal throughout the city. A frame, formed of wooden laths, about three feet high, and shaped like a bee-hive, is placed above a small brazier, filled with heated charcoal; and the linen is flung over this frame, one garment above another, where it gradually dries. But should the laundress omit to remove the lower portions of it directly that they are free from damp, they ignite, and the whole becomes one burning mass.

That in a country where fires are so frequent, such reckless usages should be persisted in by individuals, or permitted by the authorities, appears incredible; while

they account, if not satisfactorily, at least fully, for t constant recurrence of the evil. Nor can you, ev should you desire to do so, remain in ignorance of t calamity whenever it occurs, for you are constant awakened in the night by the heavy strokes of iron-pointed pike upon the rough pavement of t streets, and you hear the deep voice of the fire-gua announce the quarter where the flames have brok out.

As there is a regular sentinel, relieved every seco hour, on the look-out for fires in the upper gallery the Seraskier's Tower, which is like a glass lante having windows on all sides; every conflagratio however unimportant, is instantly announced by t patroles appointed to the different quarters of the cit and thus a week rarely passes in which you are n startled by the boding cry of the guard, "Fire Scutari—a—" "Fire at Galata—a—." Up go all t windows of the neighbourhood; and, when the locali of the accident is ascertained, those who have proper or connexions in the quarter hasten to the scene of a tion: while those who have no individual interest in t misfortune, close their casements, and creep back bed, rejoicing that they have escaped for the pres the dreaded catastrophe.

All the Pashas resident in the capital or its imm diate neighbourhood are obliged to attend every f that occurs, and to assist in its extinction; so that th frequently have a very busy time of it; and Nam Pasha—the fêted and favoured Namik Pasha—prob bly from personal experience of the dangers attenda on the employment, has, since his return to Turke cited, as his two most admirable memories of Englan her *Pantomimes* and her Fire-men!

The Greek "Festival of Fire" has now, in cons quence of the prohibition to which I have allud become local in its celebration: and the village

Buyukdèrè, Therapia, and Yenekeui, have the exclusive honour of commemorating the conquest of the Cæsars.

We embarked on board our caïque at dusk, and having with some difficulty made our way through the floating crowd that thronged the stream, we landed, and proceeded to the house of Veronica, the heroine of Mac Farlane's novel of the "Armenians." From the windows, which commanded the little bay where the rejoicings were to take place, we had a full view of the whole ceremony, and a most extraordinary exhibition it was.

Two artificial islands had been formed in the bay, and heaped with dried wood, and other inflammable materials, and on that which was furthest from the shore, the pile was surmounted by a caïque: another line of fires was prepared for a considerable distance along the coast; and in every direction men were flitting about with paper lanterns, conducting the different parties of visitors from their boats to the residences of their friends. Therapia was concealed behind a point of land; but Buyukdèrè was visible in the distance, like a line of fire hemming in the glittering waters which reflected afar off the unusual brilliancy. The flames, as they rose and fell, flashed and faded upon the casements of the houses that skirted the shore, with an effect quite magical: while the sombre coast of Asia had not one glimmering light to relieve its stately outline.

At a sudden signal the fires were ignited: and the condemned caïque was soon one mass of flame. But the most extraordinary portion of the spectacle was the crowd of men, dressed only in wide cotton drawers, their partially shaven heads bare, and their arms tossed high in the air, who were wading up to their necks in the sea, and feeding the fires with shrieks and yells worthy of a chorus of demons. At intervals,

they all rushed out of the water, and sprang across the flames of the huge fires which were burning along the coast, looking like infernal spirits celebrating their unholy orgies; and then, plunging once more into the stream, they danced round the lesser island in a circle, to the wild chanting of the spectators on the shore.

The effect of the whole scene was thrilling. The bright-barrelled firelock of the Turkish sentinel, who was posted at the battery above the village, flashed, as he trod his beat, in the fierce light which fell upon it. The line of heights behind the houses was covered with spectators: the women seated on mats and cushions, and the men standing in groups among them, all as distinctly visible as beneath a noon-day sun; while, in the opposite direction, the waves of the Bosphorus shone like liquid gold, and the caïques, wedged together as closely as though they had been one compact body, gleamed out gaily with their crimson rugs and gilded ornaments.

The same wild sports continued for two hours, gradually decreasing in violence, as the fatigue of the fierce and unremitted exertions of the actors made itself felt; when the Wallachian band, and an immense fire kindled beneath the windows of the house in which we were passing the evening, and which was formed of wicker baskets wedged one within the other, with a tall tree planted in the midst, that produced a very singular effect, gradually withdrew the crowd from the expiring glories of the coast; and as the last note of the Sultan's March died away, the throng dispersed, and we were left to the undisturbed society of our friends.

Veronica could never have been handsome; the expression of her countenance is sweet and agreeable, but her features are neither regular nor fine; nor does she possess the low soft voice which is so great a charm

in the Turkish women, and to which the coarse language of the Armenian nation does not lend itself. She is rather under the middle size, calm in her manner, and graceful in her carriage; and her sable dress and melancholy history invest her with an interest that mere beauty would fail to excite. As I conversed with the widowed wife, and saw her shrink beneath the night air like a withered flower, and fold her furred pelisse closer about her with her thin wasted hand, I could have wept over her faded youth and blighted feelings. It is painfully evident that the memory of her error and of her wrongs sits heavily upon her, and that it is a poisoned chain whose fetters can be flung off only in the grave. Even Time, the great physician of all moral ills, has no power over a grief like hers.*

Before we returned home, we rode slowly towards Therapia; which, etched in fire, and loud with music, threw its bright shadow far along the waves; and more than once we narrowly escaped collision with a mirth-laden bark, whose conductors were pressing forward in all the heedless eagerness of hilarity.

It was near midnight ere we withdrew from the busy scene: and when I fell asleep, I dreamt that Veronica was the wife of one of the Cæsars; and that a young and dark-eyed Greek prince was leaping over the burning city of Constantinople, while a portly Armenian, who had been of the evening party, was filling his unwieldy calpac with water, as he stood breast-high in the Bosphorus, and handing it to a set of wild Indians who were howling and dancing amid the flames.

Truly my sleeping visions produced a second "Festival of Fire."

* Alas! the romance of the tale is now ruined; for Veronica *has since* become the wife of a wealthy, well-fed Armenian merchant.

CHAPTER XXIII

A Chapter on Caïques—The Sultan's Barge—Princes and Pashas—The Pasha's Wife—The Admiralty Barge—The Fruit Caïque—The Embassy Barge—The Omnibus Caïque—Turkish Boatmen—The Caïque of Azmè Bey—Pleasant Memories—The Chevalier Hassuna de Ghies—Natural Politeness of the Turks—Turkey and Russia—Sultan Mahmoud—Confusion of Tongues—Arif Bey—Imperial Present—The Fruit of Constantinople—The Two Banners—The Harem—Azimè Hanoum.

SHOULD I ever have time, I murmured to myself, as we darted down the Bosphorus in the caïque of Azmè Bey, with whom we were engaged to dine, and who had obligingly sent his boat and his Dragoman to facilitate our arrival at Dolma Batchè—should I ever have time, I will write a chapter on caïques.

A more graceful subject could scarcely be selected. From the gilded barges of the Sultan, to the common passage-boat that plies within the port, the caïques are all beauty; and, as they fly past you, their long and lofty prows dipping downward towards the current at every stroke of the oars, you are involuntarily reminded of some aquatic bird, moistening the plumage of its glistening breast in the clear water.

That bright mass of gilding and glitter which is flying over the water, shaped like a marine monster, and gleaming in the sunshine, is one of the Imperial barges. Mahmoud is returning from the mosque. Hark! to the booming of the loud cannon, which announces his departure from the coast of Europe, for his *delicious* summer palace of Beglierbey; the

most lovely (for that is the correct term)—the most lovely object on the Bosphorus; rising like the creation of a twilight dream beneath the shadow of an Asian mountain; a fanciful edifice, looking as though its model had been cut out of gold paper in an hour of luxurious indolence, and carried into execution during a fit of elegant caprice.

The long, dark, crescent-shaped caïque immediately in the wake of the Sultan, with its three gauze-clad rowers, and its flashing ornaments, carries a Pasha of the Imperial suite. He is hidden beneath the red umbrella which the attendant, who is squatted upon the raised stern of the boat, is holding carefully over him.

You may see a third bark, just creeping along under the land; a light, buoyant, glittering thing, with a crimson drapery fringed with gold flung over its side, and almost dipping into the water; a negress is seated behind her mistress, with a collection of yellow slippers strewn about her; and at the bottom of the boat, reclining against a pile of cushions, and attended by two young slaves, you may distinguish the closely-veiled Fatma or Leyla, whose dark eyes are seen flashing out beneath her pure white *yashmac*, and whose small, fair, delicately rounded, and gloveless hand draws yet closer together the heavy folds of her *feridjhe* as she remarks the approach of another caïque to her own. She is the wife of some Pasha—the favourite wife, it may be—musing as she darts along the water, with what new toy her next smile shall be bought. And now her light boat is lost to view, for it has shot beneath the arched entrance of the court of yonder stately harem; and you can only follow the fair Turk in thought to the cool, shady, spacious saloons of her prison palace, where the envious *yashmac* is withdrawn in deference to the yet more jealous lattice; and where the heavy feridjhe is

reveal the graceful *antery*, the gold-
vest, and the hanging sleeves.
is this which is advancing toward us with
h, and flinging its long broad shadow far
It is the Admiralty Barge, manned with
vers, and freighted with His Excellency
ha, bound on some mission to the fleet.
s and white jackets of the crew form a
trast from the dark mass at the stern of
where the High Admiral, *pro tempore*, is
rounded by a group of inferior officers.
ue-bearer is screening him from the sun;
cretary, with a sheet of paper resting upon
writing from the dictation of the minister.
great deal of business transacted on the
the Turks never require a table on which
d they are consequently but little incon-
by locality, when a necessity exists for
the passing hour.
slowly-moving bark, rather dropping down
urrent than impelled by the efforts of its
rowers, and which looks so cool and so
all that pile of green leaves heaped upon
one of the fruit caïques for the supply of
overhanging the Bosphorus. The wild
of the fruiterers announcing the nature of
handize, swells upon the air; and, as you
beside the boat, the wind sporting among
branches that are strewn over the baskets,
e the leaves, and the tempting fruit is
you in all its cool ripe beauty.
der flies the Union Jack of England! It is
id barge of the British Embassy, which is
ng with its seven rowers: the Ambassador
with a newspaper; you may know him by
fez, as well as by an aristocracy of bearing
nour which distinguishes him from all the

foreign ministers at the Ottoman Court, and which the Turks both feel and appreciate.

Very different, both in form and freight, is the dark slow, people-laden passage-caïque, just coming round the point, and which is one of several that ply between Constantinople and Buyukdèrè, and carry passengers the whole length of the Bosphorus at the moderate charge of thirty *paras* a head, a sum equivalent to three halfpence English. These omnibus boats have their outside as well as their inside passengers; and the individuals who sit upon the gunwale, with their legs hanging over the side, and their feet resting upon the spar which is lashed on to it for their especial convenience, effect, by the occupation of this amphibious seat, the saving of ten *paras* upon a voyage of about four hours.

The Caïquejhes are, generally speaking, a very fine race of men. The Greeks are esteemed the best boatmen on the Bosphorus; but all the private caïques travel with a speed that it fatigues the eye to follow. Some of these men utter a disagreeable grunt as they ply their oars, which would induce a stranger to imagine that they suffered from the exertion; but the habit is induced by their having worked too hard in their youth, and thus injured their lungs; and it is considered so great an objection to them, that no individual who retains Caïquejhes in his pay, will willingly hire a man labouring under this infirmity.

But enough—or I shall be betrayed into really writing the chapter of which I dreamed in my delicious idleness, as the handsome caïque of the Bey shot along, while the dragoman named to us the owner of each painted palace near which we passed. What a confusion of Pashas and Beys—of Excellencies and Effendis! It was impossible to remember one half *of them*; and I have already dwelt so frequently upon the sea-washed palaces of the Bosphorus, that,

instead of repeating an admiration which rather grew upon me than became weakened by frequent indulgence; an admiration which it is impossible not to feel, and equally impossible to excite by mere description; I will e'en run the caique beside the little pier near the Imperial residence of Dolma Batchè, and follow the steps of the dragoman to the hospitable home of his master.

Few things afforded us more gratification, during our residence in the East, than the manner in which Azmè Bey spoke of, and felt towards, England. Sincerity is decidedly not a national characteristic of the Turks; but there are nevertheless many individuals among them who may fairly lay claim to this great social virtue; and I unhesitatingly rank Azmè Bey as one of these. His gracious and grateful memories of those who professed a friendship for him during his European sojourn; his eagerness to repay, by every exertion in his power, the attention which is shown to him; and his frank, unostentatious politeness, lent a charm to his manner, and a value to his kindness, which enhanced them tenfold; and I do not hesitate to affirm, that did all such of his countrymen as have resided in England feel and act towards the English as Azmè Bey has done since his return, the sentiments of the Turkish people would be greatly changed with regard to them, both individually and as a nation.

We found the Bey at the head of the stairs waiting to receive us; and the first person whom I remarked in the saloon of the Salemliek was M. Hassuna de Ghies, whom I had known in London, and with whom I was delighted to renew my acquaintance. This talented and amiable man is now the editor of the Constantinopolitan Journal, and his acquirements and knowledge are justly appreciated by his Imperial master, who, besides other marks of his favour, has, *since his return from* Europe, been pleased, as an

especial token of his regard, to change his name, which he considered to be too difficult of pronunciation, into Hussein Madzhar Effendi;* an alteration by no means calculated to diminish its difficulty to European lips. He was seated on the divan, smoking his chibouque, which he relinquished on our entrance; and, ere long, he was busily engaged in conversing with my father in English; while I was undergoing the ceremony of presentation to a Greek lady, whom, with a delicacy which did him honour, Azmè Bey had invited, in order to relieve me from the restraint and *désagrément* of finding myself the only female of the party.

I mention the circumstance in order to prove to those who are inclined to treat the Turks as barbarians, and to speak of them as such, that there are many among them who may be both wronged and wounded by such an opinion, and who are capable of convincing them by their actions that it is unfounded. The Turks require only time, example, and a perfect confidence in their European allies, to become a polished as well as a civilized nation; they possess all the elements of civilization, but they are flung back by events—they are blinded by subtlety—they are hoodwinked by deception. Were they suffered to act upon their own untrammelled impressions, they would not long remain even in their present state of partial inertness; but Turkey is now in the position of a child, to whom its nurse, in order to cajole it into quiet, presents a mirror, which, viewed in one direction, widens the object that it reflects; and it has been taught that this magnified mass represents its own strength and beauty; and when it has been suffered to

* It is not without pain that I have, on passing my work through the press, to record the death of this amiable and gifted man. He perished by plague a few weeks subsequently to our departure for England.

sate itself with the false image that has thus been placed before it, the glass is reversed by its wily Mentor, and the shrunken, wasted, and almost shapeless thing that succeeds, is made object of wonder and of pity, as the narrow and despicable policy which would fain persuade the Turks that they have need of counsel and of help. The more enlightened among them do not believe this: they are even convinced to the contrary; but the argument produces its effect upon the mass, and the arm of power is weakened and paralyzed by the power of public opinion.

Turkey is like a stately forest-tree which has been cankered at the core, but which has shot forth young and vigorous branches after it had been condemned as on the eve of perishing. A weighty pressure has fallen upon the fresh green shoots; but let it only be removed, and once more the branches will stretch broadly and boldly forth, and cast their long shadows far across the earth.

Sultan Mahmoud would fain be the regenerator of his country; but he cannot resist, single-handed, an enemy more powerful, and, above all, more subtle than himself. The Turks are bad politicians; they do not hold the keys of their own citadel; and their game is overlooked on all sides. Had they sincere assistance, all Europe would soon be convinced of that to which she now appears blind—the great moral power of the Turkish people, and the incalculable advantages of their alliance.

I scarcely know how I have suffered myself to be deluded into this digression; and my only apology for its indulgence is the earnest interest which I have learnt to feel in the existence of a great and magnificent empire, bowed beneath the smiling sophistries of its most dangerous enemy.

The shady saloon of Azmè Bey, with its many windows, *all opening upon* a delicious garden overhung

h fruit-trees, and forming a leafy screen ... lich we caught here and there a bright glimpse of e Bosphorus, was half filled with guests to whom we ere presented with the ease and politeness of intuitive ood breeding; and in a few minutes we were all en-aged in an animated conversation, or rather set of conversations. The Greek lady was discussing the merits of the divan, in Italian, with a gentleman near her; M. de Ghies was still talking English with my father; and the Bey and myself were busy with Von Hammer's work on the East, and communicating our opinions in French:* nor was this all—for a party of the guests were murmuring out their soft, harmonious Turkish at the other extremity of the apartment; while the voices of the Arabs in the outer room came to us at intervals, as they passed and repassed the door of the saloon in which we sat.

The announcement of a new visitor at length summoned the Bey from the room; and he shortly afterwards returned and presented to me Arif Bey, the Paymaster-General of the Imperial Forces, who had done me the honour to desire my acquaintance; and, hearing that I was the guest of his friend, had taken this opportunity of making it. He was rather a heavy looking young man, of about seven-and-twenty; with very small black eyes, as round and bright as jet beads, an extremely pale complexion, and who, as he did not speak a word of French, kept the dragoman in constant, and frequently very unprofitable, employment in translating nearly every sentence I uttered. He was very carefully dressed; and, in addition to the gold sword-belt about his waste, he wore white gloves and a black silk stock—articles of apparel which are

* I feel proud, in 1845, to be enabled to number the distinguished Baron Von Hammer Purstall among the kindest *and the most* valued of my friends.

generally dispensed with altogether by the Turks. He had just commenced studying French, under the auspices of Azmè Bey; and, meanwhile, he smoked with a perseverance which was perfectly amusing. The Sultan has lately done him the honour of selecting a wife for him—a boon which he, of course, received with all becoming gratitude at the Imperial hand; and he is now building a very handsome residence on the border of the Bosphorus, near the Palace of Beshik-tash.

The dinner was served in the European style, and the table was remarkably well appointed. French wines were in abundance; and champagne and Edinburgh ale were not wanting; but the dessert was the charm of the repast. The fruit of Constantinople has a perfume that I never met with elsewhere; and, did the natives suffer it to ripen fully, which from their excessive fondness for it they very rarely do, much of it would probably be unrivalled for the delicacy of its flavour. Pyramids of this delicious fruit occupied the angles of the table, the most delicate pastry was ranged beside it, and the centre was occupied by a castellated tower, formed of sweetmeats, and surmounted by the British and Ottoman banners linked together. From this dish alone the Bey declined to serve his guests, lest he should disturb the union of the two flags, even symbolically; and many gracious things were said on the subject both by himself and his friends; nor had he neglected to turn the banner of the Crescent towards the head of the table, at which he had requested me to preside; while the Union Jack of England floated over his own plate.

When we withdrew from table, I went, accompanied by the Greek lady whom I have already named, to pay a visit to the harem of the Bey. A door opened from the hall of the Salemlick into a second, or inner

garden, to which we descended by a flight of steps; and after having traversed a covered walk, we found ourselves at the entrance of the harem, where a black slave, with extremely long hair, plaited in numerous braids which were looped about her shoulders, preceded us to the gallery opening into the women's apartments; but, ere we had ascended the whole stair, we were met by the young wife of the Bey herself, who, taking my hand with the sweetest smile in the world, led me forward to her cool, pretty, English-looking parlour, where I found myself in the midst of chairs, sofas, and tables; and opposite to one of the loveliest women whom I had seen in the country.

The Bey followed us in the space of a few moments, and I could not refrain from expressing to him my admiration of his wife. She scarcely looked like an oriental woman, for her large black eyes, in lieu of the sleepy, dream-like expression so general in the East, were full of brightness and intelligence; and her dark hair, instead of being concealed beneath the painted handkerchief, or cut straight across her forehead, hung in graceful curls about her fair young brow, which was as pure and smooth as marble.

She was just eighteen, and neither dye nor paint had ever sullied the purity of her complexion; while the faint tinge of red which relieved the snowy whiteness of her cheek looked as though it nestled there almost unconsciously; and at times, as she conversed, it deepened into a blush that heightened the effect of her glowing beauty. Her dress, although of Turkish form, was partly of European arrangement; her purple silk vest was folded closely about her waist, and met beneath her long and graceful throat; her figure was beautiful; and the little foot that peeped out from under the black satin pantaloon was covered by a stocking of snowy white. Her entery was of English

bombazine, sprinkled with coloured flowers; she wore no henna on her hands; and when she had fastened the carnations which I presented to her among her rich, dark hair, she was the very creature who would have inspired the gifted pencil of Pickersgill—so fair, so young, so exquisitely graceful, and so beautifully oriental.

I learnt without surprise that she belonged to one of the first families of Constantinople, and that she had received (for a Turkish female) an excellent education. She looked it all; and the books that were strewn about her apartment, and the little inkstand which stood upon the table beside the chair on which she sat, appeared by no means displaced, even although I saw them in a Turkish harem.

The party was shortly augmented by the entrance of the Bey's mother, who led by the hand a sweet little girl of ten or eleven years of age, his daughter by a former marriage, whose mother died previously to his residence in England; and they were followed by his aunt and his young sister, a child of about the same age as his own.

I lingered for upwards of two hours in the harem, where coffee was served by the fair wife of the Bey, with a smiling graciousness that convinced me of my welcome; and when, on my departure, she accompanied me to the foot of the stairs, and assured me, according to the oriental custom, that the house and all that it contained were at my disposal, she coupled the ceremony with a request that I would come and see her again; and so earnestly was it expressed, that I did not hesitate to assure her of the pleasure which I should derive from a repetition of my visit.

How I longed to take her by the hand, and lead her forth from her pretty prison, to "witch the world" with her young beauty; but, alas! the door of the

Salemliek closed behind me; and as the Bey came forward to conduct me into the saloon where my father was waiting for me to take our leave, I lost sight of the fair and graceful Azimè Hanoum.

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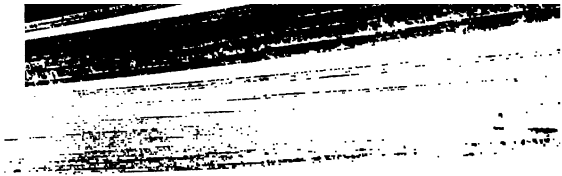

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cality.

can be richer nor more various than the
e Bosphorus on a sunshiny day in summer;
a delightful hour have I spent, in company
ather, in the contemplation of the glorious
of pictures which they offer to the lover of
ful in nature. One delicious morning, when
ng cloud marred the clear lustre of the sky,

and the song of the birds swelled cheerily upon the wind, we resolved to enjoy them to their fullest extent, and, as our caïque darted along the European coast, a thousand interesting objects presented themselves.

The Tower of Galata, rife with memories of the days when the dreaded Janissaries ruled the destinies of the Empire, crowned the height, which, clothed with houses and with verdure, swept downward to the port. The spiral minarets of the Imperial mosque of Topp-hanè were flaunting their golden glories in the light; the sounds of busy life were on the wind; and the port once past, the wide artillery-ground, and the stately barrack, were succeeded by the summer palace of the Grand Vèzir, standing proudly against the current, as though, like the Emperor of old, it dared the wave to overwhelm it. The wide sweep of hilly country, gradually closing, and becoming more lofty in the rear of the buildings that fringe the stream, was clothed with trees of every tint; from among which the many-coloured houses peeped forth in the most picturesque irregularity. Here and there a gleaming minaret shot upwards into the clear heaven from amid a cluster of plum-coloured Judas trees laden with blossom, or a clump of limes filling the air with perfume; and leaving the dark spiral cypresses far beneath it; as the spirit, soaring above the earth, out-travels the gloom and care from which it frees itself.

What a line of palaces stretched along the coast! And what a wilderness of gardens, climbing the steeps behind them, made the back-ground of the picture no inapt representation of fairy land; while at intervals a little bay formed a delicious nook occupied by country-houses, and terraced coffee-shops, where the luxurious Osmanli smoked his pipe, and inhaled his tiny cup of mocha, amid sights and sounds to which the world can probably produce no parallel.

The stately serail of the Princess Salihè, and the

of her less high-born husband, which is
n excrescence to the far-spreading edifice
e harem of his Imperial partner, stands
vhere the stream widens, as if to reflect
the golden shores that hem it in.
nething amusing enough to a foreigner
d dwellings of the Sultan's sons-in-law.
ılace as well as within, they are con-
ed of the superiority of their Imperial
hey glide along in their gilded caiques,
ıarem, with its tall doors of bronze, and
; its far-stretching terraces, and guarded
they arrive before the small landing-
ives ingress to their own diminutive
h its single entrance, and its window
ılte cotton.

pass the palace of Azmè Sultane, the
the Sultan, without being saluted by
music. The ladies of the harem are
consummate musicians, according to
of harmony; and the tinkle of the zebec,
of the violin, the ringing rattle of the
ıd a chorus of female voices, are so con-
ng over the water though the closed
our boatmen universally slacken their
ach the Serail. Oriental music requires
llow it: and when it floats along the
ıgh it rose from the ocean caves; and
imagination to dwell upon the white
tossed in air as the silver wheels of the
rine ring out; and the delicate fingers
ıtrings, and the rich red lips and large
lend new grace to the wild and bound-
of the country—you are almost ready
ıe moment, that Apollo must have first
in a Turkish harem.

look fixedly towards the lattices, as

though to search for the embodiment of your ro
fancies, you may discover proofs that the comm
is not one vowed to the rosary, though it may
the veil. Here it is an orange attached by a lo
hair to the outer frame of the small centre windo
the trellis-work; there it is a marigold suspended
a red ribbon; while, partially concealed, and twi
amid the minute squares of the jealous screen, y
may perhaps discover a small cluster of roses.
This is the very land of practical romance!
An arrow's flight beyond the palace of the eld
Sultana, stands that of the Imperial bride of Said
Pasha—a long, irregular, rose-coloured pile, plea-
santly situated at the mouth of a lovely bay, whose
shores are bright with groves and many tinted villas;
while, in the distance, where the channel again nar-
rows, the castles of Europe and Asia may be seen
looming out against the pure blue of the sky. We
loitered at this sweet spot for a brief space, and then,
darting once more forward, soon arrived under the
"Hill of the Thousand Nightingales." Rightly is it
named, for the mid-day air was vocal with their
melody, and the dense foliage of the forest trees
quivered with their song; while, as the melancholy
music came to us along the water, its sadness was
deepened by the aspect of a few scattered tombs
gleaming out amid the rank underwood. The variety
of timber which clothed the eminence formed such
arying shades of green; from the bright soft tint of
e water willow, whose flexile branches swayed in
e breeze like silken streamers, to the tall, dark,
ent cypresses, that it was a study for a landscape
nter.
eyond this lovely hill, the shore is edged with
ek, Armenian, and Turkish houses; and here
mences the *moral* interest of the locality. The
lings of the raïahs are, when of any extent,

almost universally painted of two different colours on the outside, in order to give them the appearance of separate tenements, and thus deceive the passers by; while those of the Turks themselves are perfectly illustrative of the momentary condition of their owners.

The Osmanli is the creature of the present; he never falls back upon the past; he has no glorious memories to wile him from himself; every page of his history is shadowed over by some gloomy recollection; nor dare he dwell upon the future, for he is the subject of a despotic government: the proud Pasha of to-day may be headless, or at best houseless to-morrow; and hence the premature decay of three-fourths of the Turkish dwellings.

When an individual becomes possessed of power, he buys or builds a residence suited to his brightened fortunes: he lavishes his revenue—why should he hoard it? it can only excite the cupidity of the Sultan, and accelerate his disgrace; or awaken the jealousy of his rivals, and insure his ruin. He makes his house gay without and convenient within; but all its accessories are ephemeral—the paint which he spreads over the surface remains fresh for a year, and that suffices him. Perchance it may outlast his favour; should it not do so, it is no unpleasant task to renew it; and if it should, he contents himself with the weather-stained walls of a more golden season. Once in disgrace, he repairs only just sufficiently to defy the weather, and troubles himself no further. And thus, after you have been a few months in the country, and have studied in some degree the nature and habits of the people, you may give a shrewd guess as you ride along, at the past and present position of the owner of every edifice that fringes the Bosphorus.

The courtier has raised a pile which looks as though it had been finished only yesterday; the walls are so bright, and the lattices are so perfect; the blue ripple

chafes against the marble steps that lead to the columned portico; and the feathery acacias nestle among their blossoming boughs, gilded kiosques, and lordly terraces.

The slighted favourite has still servants lounging about his door, and a stately landing-place beside which his caique dances on the wave; but a shade has passed over the picture: the summer sun and the winter wind have deadened the bright blue or the soft olive of the edifice, and here and there a slender bar is rent away from the discoloured lattices. The fair forest trees still wave along the covered terrace, but the steps are grass-grown, and the flower vases are overthrown: they might be replaced; but it is better policy to let them suffer with their master.

The dwelling of the exile is still more distinguishable. The shutters are hanging loose and beating in the wind; the broken casements no longer exclude the weather; the lattices are wrenched away; the terrace-wall is falling inch by inch into the wave; the rank grass is forcing its way through the crevices of the marble floor; the garden kiosques are roofless; and the green fresh boughs are flaunting in the sunshine, mocking the desolation which they dominate.

Fathers do not, in Turkey, build, or plant, or purchase for their sons; their fathers did it not for them; it would entail the probable loss of both principle and interest.

The Armenian houses are peculiarly remarkable for their cleanliness. All the inhabitants of Constantinople in decent circumstances are scrupulously nice on this point, but the Armenians exceed all others; every respectable dwelling being scoured throughout once a week with soap and water. I have already, in speaking of this people, alluded to their utter deficiency in sentiment and ambition: their lives are *fritted* away in inconsequent details; and hence their

attention and interest are bestowed on comparatively insignificant objects, which render them remarkable to strangers.

Another striking object on the coast is the romantic and beautiful little cemetery of Isari, situated immediately beneath the Castle of Europe, by which it is dominated as by the eagle-eyry of some feudal baron. Rocks, rudely flung together, and in their perpendicular ascent impervious to vegetation, sustain the foundations of the fortress; while around and among them snatches of kindlier earth are covered with dense rich underwood, from amid which tall graceful trees spring up, and overshadow the gilded marble of many a columned gravestone.

The Castle of Europe, standing immediately opposite to the valley occupied by the castle on the other coast, is built after a singular fancy. Tradition tells that Mahomet, from his Asiatic mountains, contemplated with envy the lovely shores of Europe; and that, unable to restrain his desire of possessing at least a speck of the fair landscape, he entreated permission of the Greeks to be allowed to build a small fortress as a landing-place, on their territory. The favour was granted, the materials collected, and the present Castle of Europe completed in six days; the ground-plan forming the characters of the Prophet's name.

This castle, like the fortresses of the Dardanelles, has been suffered to fall into partial decay, but an order was lately issued for their simultaneous restoration, and workmen are now busily employed in repairing the united ravages of time and neglect.

The little village of Mirgheun, about a mile higher up the channel, is one of the prettiest things on the Bosphorus. A long street, terminating at the water's edge, stretches far into the distance, its centre being occupied by a Moorish fountain of white marble, overshadowed by limes and acacias, beneath which are coffee-terraces

ine of arches rises all bloom and freshness above a ourite walk; sometimes the plants are stretched nd vases of red clay of the most classical formation, which they preserve the shape; ranges of carna- ns, clumps of acacias, and bouquets of seringa, are mmon; and the effect of these fair flowers, half elded from observation, and overhung with forest es, which are in profusion in every garden, is ex- emely agreeable.

Another peculiarity of the Bosphorus is the great pth of the water to the very edges of the channel. ie terraces that hem it in are frequently injured by eir contact with the shipping which, in a sudden ll of wind, or by some inadvertence on the part of e helmsman, "run foul" (to use a nautical expres- on) of the shore; nor is it the terraces alone that ffer, for the houses whose upper stories project over ie stream, which is almost universally the case where ey are of any extent, are constantly sustaining injury om the same cause.

We had occupied our summer residence only two ays, when an Imperial brig in the Turkish service, attempting a tack, thrust its bowsprit through the entre window of the magnificent saloon of an Arme- ian banker, with whose family we were acquainted. he master of the house, exasperated at the evident arelessness in which the accident had originated, ushed out upon the terrace to remonstrate, but his emonstrances were unheeded; and he had scarcely e-entered the house when the Turkish captain, who as intoxicated, landed, and without ceremony passed nto the outer court, accompanied by some of his crew; nd, seizing the brother of the gentleman, and several f his servants, gave them a severe beating, and then uietly returned on board. The vessel was extricated fter a time, carrying away with it nearly the whole ront of the *saloon, and* a large portion of the roof,

already
the inconvenience
Were I the admiral o
conquest of a channel like
would employ none but Tur
so much at home as when ag
building; they would literally
Their mighty ships of war do
constantly "touching," when
"cruising," and "aground,"
home believe them to be at sea.
Where did you meet the adr
came from Malta? On shore,
did you speak the frigate on your
at Gallipoli. These were the ansv
put by myself; and had I ventu
should probably have received simi
Englishmen will probably, at th
der why it should be thus; but it
subject for astonishment were it oth
field-marshal, by kissing the Subli
lated at once into a lord high
colonel of a cavalry regi
simple process
each i

y art of consopiation, and her finished tact at
ing over effects, and inventing causes, she has
ht them to believe themselves independent of ex-
ous aid, heaven-inspired, and all-sufficient.
signifies not how irrelevant the duties of any
tion may be to his previous habits and talent,
urk would hesitate to accept it on that account,
ld the occasion of self-aggrandizement present
; and he has two satisfactory reasons for acting
: he must at least be as capable of fulfilling them
is predecessor, who was equally ill-fitted for the
; and, should he refuse one good offer, he would
ably never have a second. Thus reason the
anlis, and upon this conviction they act. Nor is
an Mahmoud one whit more difficult or quick-
ted on this point than his subjects, or more
pulous as to the efficiency of those to whom he
s important appointments, than they are in accept-
them; and a ludicrous example of this uncalculating
lity occurred very lately, so perfectly in point that
nnot forbear to mention it.
lis Highness had a favourite physician, to whom
had entrusted the superintendence of a public
blishment, and who died suddenly at Scutari.
en informed of his death, the Sultan was visibly
cted; and in the first moment of regret he inquired
iously if the deceased had left any family. He
answered that he had an only son, a clerk in the
ek Chancellory, whose situation was far from a
ative one; and he immediately desired that the
th, who had not yet attained his twentieth year,
ld be appointed on the instant to his father's
ancy, and receive the same salary which had been
oyed by his parent. He was obeyed; and the
ice clerk at once became metamorphosed into the
mn physician, or something as near like it as he
'd accomplish.

By an arrangement not altogether so satisfactory, surgeons are supplied to the ships of war. When a medical man is required on board some vessel of the line, individuals appointed for the purpose walk into the first chemist's shop they may happen to pass, seize the master, carry him off, hurry him first into a caïque, and thence to the ship; appoint him surgeon, enter him on the books, acquaint him with the amount of his pay; and, should he venture to remonstrate, give him a sound flogging.

Nor are "the powers that be" at all more particular in their bearing towards the officers of the ships, whom they flog (the captains inclusive) whenever they chance to consider the operation desirable. On a late occasion, two of the frigates ran foul of each other in the channel, upon which Tabir Pasha, the High Admiral, bestowed the bastinado so unsparingly upon their commanders, that the blood penetrated their garments; and they were subsequently flung into some den in the hold, and there left during three days, not only without attendance, but literally without food!

It may be asked what punishment can be inflicted on the crews, if such unceremonious measures are pursued with the officers; and, as one fact is better than a score of assertions, I will reply by relating another very recent occurrence, described to me by a Greek gentleman who was present during the whole transaction. The Capitan Pasha had a party of friends to dine with him on board his ship, who were about to seat themselves at table, when it was reported to him that one of the crew, in defiance of the order which forbade any individual to go on shore, had surreptitiously left the vessel.

"Let me know when he returns on board;" was the cold and careless rejoinder of the High Admiral, who had scarcely uttered the words when the reappearance of the delinquent was announced, after an

absence of about ten minutes. He was ordered below to account for his conduct to the Pasha, whose very name is a terror to the whole fleet, when he stated that the following day being Friday (the Turkish Sabbath), he had ventured on shore to procure some clean linen, fearing the anger of the Admiral should he appear dirty.

"And was it for this trifle that you disobeyed my orders?" asked the Pasha; "I must take measures to prevent any future instance of the same misconduct—" and grasping an iron bar that served to secure one of the cabin windows, and which stood near him—without the pause of a moment—surrounded by his guests—standing beside a table spread for a banquet, and with his victim crouching at his feet—he struck the quailing wretch upon the head, and murdered him with a blow. The body fell heavily upon the earth in the death spasm; and the Admiral, addressing himself to an attendant, quietly ordered that the corpse should be removed, and the dinner served; but several of the party declined remaining after what they had witnessed, declaring their inability to partake of food at such a moment; these were, of course, Turks; for the Greek guests, although equally disgusted and heart sick, were not at liberty to withdraw without danger; and the dead man was borne away, and the living feasted, with his death-groan still ringing in their ears, and his last fierce agony yet grappling at their hearts!

Tahir Pasha is a perfect embodiment of the vulgar idea of Turkish character which was so lately prevalent in Europe. He is the slave of his passions, and apparently without human affections or human sympathies. He lost his only son by his own violence, having beaten him so severely for quitting the house without his permission, that the unhappy young man died a day *or two subsequently*, in consequence of the

injuries which he had sustained; and, instead of profiting by this awful occurrence, he afterwards murdered a nephew in the same manner.

And yet I have heard men, carried away by party spirit, and hoodwinked by prejudice, maintain that this fiend in human shape was not cruel; and bolster their opinions with a sophistry that made me shudder.

I inquired of an *attaché* of the Porte whether the Sultan was aware of the waste of life in his fleet, where a week seldom passes in which some luckless wretch does not fall a victim to the wrath of the High Admiral; and the coolness of the answer was inimitable: "What has His Highness to do with it?" "How!" I rejoined in my turn, "are they not his subjects?" "Of course; but Tahir Pasha commands the fleet; and, while he does so, he has a right to enforce its discipline as he thinks best. Why should the Sultan interfere!" "But such wholesale cruelty is so revolting." "Perhaps so; yet how can it be remedied?" "Were I the Sultan," I answered unhesitatingly, "I would decapitate the High Admiral; it would be a saving of human blood." The Turk laughed at my earnestness as he replied; "Mashallah! you have hit upon a radical remedy. But how would you secure the fleet against a second Tahir Pasha?"

He was right. The evil exists rather in the system than in the individual: but it is, nevertheless, a blessing for Turkey, that the equal of her High Admiral, for ruthlessness and cruelty, is probably not to be found in the country. And yet, to look at him, you would imagine that no thought of violence, no impulse of revenge, had ever stirred his spirit; he has the head of an anchorite, and the brow of a saint. I never beheld a more benevolent countenance: Lavater would have been at fault with him.

One of the most pleasant excursions that can be made to the opposite coast, is to Unkiar Skelessi, or the Sul-

tan's Pier; a sweet valley, under the shadow of the Giant's Mountain, in which the famous treaty was signed with Russia. It is profusely shaded with majestic trees, the largest in the neighbourhood, and is entirely covered with rich grass. The spot on which the ceremony took place is overhung with maples, and washed by a running stream: behind it rises a range of hills; and on its left stands an extensive manufactory of cloth, and a paper-mill, erected at an immense expense, and furnished with their elaborate machinery by the present Sultan, who caused an elegant kiosque to be erected upon the height for his own use, when he went to superintend the works, which were, however, abandoned as soon as the novelty had worn off. They are now falling rapidly to ruin; and the noble run of water which was forced from its channel to turn the wheels of the mill, is wasting itself in an useless course across the valley, ere it is finally lost in the Bosphorus.

This lovely spot is much frequented on festival days by all classes of the population, who form pic-nic parties, and spend hours under the shade of the tall trees, sipping their coffee and sherbet; or occupying the different terraces which overlook the Bosphorus, with regular pleasure parties, whose servants come well provided with provisions, and who linger throughout the whole day, enjoying the cool breezes from the sea, and the long shadows of the boughs beneath which they sit.

Higher up the valley, you generally meet with an encampment of Bedouin Arabs, where you are almost certain to see two or three faces of dark flashing beauty, which repay you for the annoyance that you experience from the importunity of the troop of children who assail you directly you approach the tents; little, ragged, merry-looking, vociferous urchins, of whom you cannot rid yourself either by bribes or menaces. These dark, proud beauties, for they are proud-looking, even amid their *tatters*, with their large, wild, black eyes,

and their long raven hair plaited in many braids, which fall upon their shoulders, and hang below their waists; their round, smooth arms bare to the elbow, whence the large hanging sleeves fall back; and their well-turned little feet peeping out from beneath their ample trousers; these dark, proud beauties greet you with a smile, and a "Mashallah!" that introduce you to teeth like pearls, and voices like music; and as they sit, weaving their baskets for the market of Constantinople, they extend towards you their slender, henna-tipped fingers, and ask your piastres, without taking the trouble to rise rather as a tribute to their loveliness, than as an offe ing to their necessities.

To escape from the importunities of the child whom the sight of the tempting metal renders more importunate, you have but to plunge deeper the valley, and lose yourself among the majestic trees with which it abounds. The nightingale disturbs the deep silence of the solitude, save w intervals the lowing of the cattle on the m sweeps along upon the wind.

It was here that De Lille wrote his "Pleasures Imagination;" it was here that De la Martine vised to the memory of his daughter. The soil

CHAPTER II.

Facts and Fictions — Female Execution at Constantinople — Crime of the Condemned—Tale of the Merchant's Wife—The Call to Prayer — The Discovery — The Mother and Son — The Hiding-Place—The Capture—The Trial—A Night Scene in the Harem The Morrow — Mercifulness of the Turks towards their Women.

A VAST deal of very romantic and affecting sentiment has been from time to time committed to paper, on the subject of the Turkish females drowned in the Bosphorus; and some tale-writers have even gone so far as to describe, in the character of witnesses, the extreme beauty and the heart-rending tears of the victims.

The subject is assuredly one which lends itself to florid phrases and highly-wrought periods; but it is unfortunate that in this case, as in many others, the imagination far outruns the fact. I say unfortunate, because those readers who love to "sup full of horrors," when they have wept over the affecting image of beauty struggling against the grasp of the executioner, and the dark eyes looking reproach upon their murderer from amid the deep waters which are so soon to quench their light for ever, do not like to descend to the sober assurance that none of these things can be; and that the veracious chroniclers who have excited their sensibilities, and misled their reason, have only built up a pathetic sketch upon inference, and in reality know *nothing at all about* the matter.

There is no romance in one of these frightful executions; all is harsh, unmitigated horror! The victim may, or may not, be young and beautiful; her executioners have no opportunity of judging. She may be the impersonation of grace, and they must remain equally ignorant of the fact; for she has neither power nor opportunity to excite sympathy, were she the loveliest houri who ever escaped from the paradise of Mahomet.

I have a friend, a man in place and power, who, during the time of the Janissaries, and but a few months previous to the annihilation of their body, had been detained in the palace of one of the ministers until three hours past midnight; and who, on passing across the deep bay near the Castle of Europe, was startled by perceiving two caiques bearing lights, lying upon their oars in the centre of the stream. His curiosity being excited, he desired his boatmen to pull towards them, when, at the instant that he came alongside, he discovered that they were filled by police officers; and at the same moment, a female closely shrouded in a *yashmac*, and with the mouth of a sack, into which her whole body had been thrust, tied about her throat, was lifted in the arms of two men from the bottom of the furthest caique, and flung into the deep waters of the bay. As no weight had been appended to the sack, the miserable woman almost instantly reappeared upon the surface, when she was beaten down by the oars of the boatmen; and this ruthless and revolting ceremony was repeated several times ere the body finally sank.

My friend, heartsick at the spectacle to which he had so unexpectedly become a witness, demanded of the principal officer, by whom he had been instantly recognised, the crime of the wretched victim who had *just* perished; and learnt that she was the wife of a *Janissary* whom the Sultan had caused to be strangled.

weeks previously; and who, in her anguish at the
of her husband, had since rashly permitted herself
eak in terms of hatred and disgust of the govern-
by whose agency she had been widowed.
that fatal morning she had paid the price of her
eretion.
ie ministers of death lingered yet awhile to con-
themselves that the body would not reappear;
my friend lingered also from a feeling which he
not explain even to himself. The dawn was
breaking in the sky; one long ray of light touched
ummits of the tall cypresses above the grave-yard
ari, and revealed the castellated outline of the
ost tower of the Janissaries' prison: there was
a breath of wind; and all around appeared so
and peaceful, that he could scarcely persuade
elf that he had just looked on death, when the
voices of the men in the caïques beside him,
ey once more plunged their oars into the stream,
prepared to depart, aroused him from his reverie;
motioning to his boatmen to proceed, he found
elf ere long on the terrace of his own palace.
hile I am on the subject of executions, I may as
relate "an o'er true tale," communicated to me
e same individual. Nearly four years have elapsed
the occurrence took place, but it is so character-
of Turkish manners, that it will not be misplaced

eminent merchant of Stamboul, extremely
hy, and considerably past the middle age, be-
the husband of a very young and lovely woman.
urkish females never see the individuals whom
marry previously to the ceremony, but are chosen
me matronly relation of the person who finds it
lient to bestow himself on a wife, and who,
ig seen and approved the lady, arranges all pre-

liminaries with her parents; so it may
gined that the bride is frequently far
tulating herself on her change of position
as would appear from the result, was th
the young wife to whom I have just re
who was destined to become the heroine of
tragedy.

Two years passed over Fatma Hanoum
became the mother of a son; but her hea
with its father, and, unhappily for the weal
passion and disappointment, it had found
place elsewhere.

The merchant's house was situated near a
from the gallery of whose minaret all the wi
the harem were overlooked. The sun was set
glorious summer evening, when the Imaum
to this gallery, to utter the shrill cry of the
which summons the faithful to prayer. Ere h
menced the invocation, he chanced to glance
wards, and he started as he beheld a man, cling
a shawl which had been flung from above, and
his way into the harem of the merchant throu
open window. Nor was this all, for the quick
jealous eye of the Imaum at once assured him th
delinquent was a Greek—that the wife of a Mussel
had stooped to accept the love of a Christian; an
well knew that, in such a case, there was no merc
the culprit.

The Imaum was a stern man; for one moment
he wavered; and during that moment he raised
ample turban from his brow, and suffered the c
evening breeze to breathe lovingly upon his templ
in the next, he bent over the gallery and spat up
the earth, as he murmured to himself, "The dog
an infidel! — May his father's grave be defiled! -
May his mother eat dirt!"—and, having so testifie

is contempt and abhorrence of the ill-fated lover, he fted his gaze to the clear sky, and the ringing cry ealed out:—

"La Allah, illa Allah! Muhammed Resoul Allah!"

His duty done, the Imaum descended the dark and arrow stair of the minaret, and left the mosque; and, n another instant, he had put off his slippers at the ntrance of the salemliek, and stood before the sofa, t the upper end of which sat the merchant smoking is chibouque of jasmin wood, and attended by two laves.

The Turks are not fond husbands, but they are ealous ones. They are watchful of their women, not ecause they love them, but because they are anxious or their own honour; and no instance can be adduced n which an Osmanli is wilfully blind to the errors of his wife.

Here "the offence was rank, it smelt to heaven." The young and beautiful Fatma Hanoum had wronged him with a Greek! The gray-bearded merchant, trembling between rage and grief, rose from his seat and rushed into the harem—The tale was true—for one moment the aged and outraged husband looked upon the young and handsome lover; and in the next the agile Greek had flung up the lattice, and sprung from the open window. Ere long the house was filled with the relatives of the wife, and its spacious apartments were loud with anguish and invective; but Fatma Hanoum answered neither to the sobbing of grief, nor to the reproach of scorn; she sat doubled up upon her cushions, with her eyes rivetted on the casement by which her lover had escaped.

The merchant, stung to the heart by the stain that had been cast upon his honour; embittered in spirit by the knowledge that it was a Christian by whom he had been wronged; and not altogether forgetful, it may be, *of the grace* and beauty of the mother of his

child, sat moodily apart; and all the reasonings and beseechings of his wife's anxious family only wrung from him the cold and unyielding answer that he would never see her more.

And the heretic lover, where was he?

Like an arrow shot by a strong arm, he had sped to the home of his widowed mother, and had hurriedly imparted to her the fearful jeopardy in which he stood. There was not a moment to be lost; and, hastily snatching up some food that had been prepared for his evening meal, he flung himself upon the neck of his weeping parent; and then, disengaging himself from her clinging arms, rushed from the house, no one knew whither.

But the Imaum, meanwhile, was not idle. He had aroused the neighbourhood; he had raised the cry of sacrilege; he had bruited abroad the dishonour of the Moslem; and ere long a Turkish guard was on the track of the young Greek. But no trace of him could be discovered; and the fair and frail Hanoum was removed to the harem of one of her husband's relatives, where her every look and action were subjected to the most rigorous observance, before the faintest hope had been entertained of securing her miserable lover.

Three wretched days were past, and on the morning of the fourth the pangs of hunger became too mighty for the youth to support. He stole from his concealment, he looked around him, and he was alone! He ventured a few paces forward; rich fruits were pendent from the branches of the tall trees beneath which he moved, and he seized them with avidity; but, as he raised his hand a second time to the laden boughs, he heard near him the deep breathing of one who wept—He glared towards the spot whence the sound came, and his heart melted within him—it was his mother—the guardian of his youth—the friend of

his manhood—the mourner over his blighted hopes. He rushed towards her; he murmured her name; and for a moment the parent and the child forgot all save each other! It was the watchful love of the mother which first awoke to fear: and in a few seconds the secret of her son was confided to her, and she was comparatively happy. She could steal to his hiding-place at midnight; she could ensure him against hunger; she could hear his voice, and convince herself that he yet lived; and with this conviction she hurried from his side, and bade him wait patiently yet a few hours, when she would bring him food.

The young Greek stole back to his hiding-place, and slept. The sleep of the wretched is heavy—slow to come, and weighed down with wild and bitter dreams; and thus slumbered the criminal. The night was yet dark when he awoke, and heard footsteps, and then he doubted not that his watchful parent was indeed come to solace the moments of his trembling solitude. Had he paused an instant, and afforded time for the perfect waking of all his senses, he would have discovered at once that the sounds of many feet were on the earth; but he had already passed several days without cause of alarm, and his past safety betrayed him into a false feeling of security.

The unhappy youth had not wandered beyond the spacious gardens of his home, which, rising the height behind the house, were divided into terraces, along whose whole extent had been placed avenues of orange and lemon trees, planted in immense vases of red clay. Several of these, in which the plants had failed or perished, had been reversed to protect them from the weather; and one of them, dragged in the first paroxysm of terror to the mouth of an exhausted well, had served to screen the culprit from the gaze of his pursuers. But on this night, when, by some

extraordinary fatality, he forgot for an instant the caution which had hitherto been his protection, he clambered to the mouth of the pit as he heard the coming footsteps, and, pushing aside the vase, sprang out upon the path.

The moonlight fell on him as he emerged from his concealment, pale, and haggard; his dark locks dank with the heavy atmosphere of his hiding-place, and his frame weakened by exhaustion. As he gained his feet and looked around him, his arms fell listlessly at his sides, and his head drooped upon his breast. He had no longer either strength or energy to wrestle with his fate; and he put his hands into the grasp of the armed men among whom he stood, and suffered himself to be led away from the home of his boyhood and the clasp of his shrieking mother, with the docility of a child.

The trial followed close upon the discovery of the lover. There was no hope for the wretched pair! Against them appeared the Imaum—stern, uncompromising, and circumstantial; the outraged husband, wrought to madness by the memory of his dishonour; and, callous as marble, the faith which had been disgraced—society which had been scandalized. For them there were none to plead, save the grey-haired and widowed mother, who wept and knelt to save her only son; but who asked his life in mercy, and not in justice. Did their youth sue for them? Did the soft loveliness of the guilty wife, or the manly beauty of the lover, raise them up advocates? Alas! these were their direst condemnation; and thus it only remained for them to die!

It was at this period that my friend, the ——, first became connected with the affair. The family of the condemned woman, knowing his influence with the government, flung themselves at his feet, and

is interference. They expatiated on the
the misguided Fatma—on the personal
ns of him by whose love she had fallen;
theme untouched; and he became deeply
n her fate, and resolved that, while a hope
he would not abandon her cause. But he
o plead in vain; the crime had increased
ntry; every Turkish breast heaved high
nation; my friend urged, supplicated, and
nheeded; and at length found himself un-
uce another argument in her behalf.
eluctantly convinced of the fact, he dis-
at, through his exertions to save her life,
had become so deeply enthralled by the
e miserable woman, that he resolved to
to see her ere she died; and he was startled
dy acquiescence that followed his request,
by the terms in which it was couched.
visit her at midnight, to acquaint her
ith the result of the trial," was the answer;
ld you think proper, you may accompany
will have no future opportunity of indulg-
riosity."
ese circumstances he did not hesitate; and
tes before midnight he was at the door of
in which she had resided since her removal
husband's house. The officers of justice
lmost immediately; and it struck him as
l the threshold, that they were in greater
n so simple an errand appeared to exact;
nstantly remembered that others might feel
riosity as himself, and profit by the same
gratifying it, he did not dwell upon the
ce.
hushed in the harem; and the fall of their
l feet awoke no echo on the matted floors.

One solitary slave awaited them at the head of the stairs, and he moved slowly before the party, with a small lamp in his hand, to the apartment of the condemned woman.

She was sleeping when they entered. Her cheek was pillowed upon her arm; and a quantity of rich dark hair, which had escaped from beneath the painted handkerchief that was twisted about her head, lay scattered over the pillow. She was deadly pale; but her eyebrows, and the long silken lashes which fringed her closed eyes, were intensely black, and relieved the pallor of her complexion; while her fine and delicate features completed as lovely a face as ever the gaze of man had lingered on. At times a shuddering spasm contracted for an instant the muscles of her countenance; the terrors of the day had tinged her midnight dreams; and at times she smiled a fleeting smile, which was succeeded by a sigh, as if, even in sleep, the memory of past happiness was clouded by a pang.

But her slumber was not destined to be of long continuance; for the principal individual of the party, suddenly bending over her, grasped her arm, and exclaimed, "Wake, Fatma, wake; we have tidings for you!"

The unhappy woman started, and looked up; and then, hurriedly concealing her face in the coverlets, she gasped out, "Mashallah! What means this? What would you with me that you steal thus upon me in the night? Am I not a Turkish woman? And am I not uncovered?"

"Fear nothing, Hanoum," pursued the official; "we have tidings for you which we would not delay."

"God is great!" shrieked the guilty one, raising herself upon her pillows. "You have pardoned him—"

But the generous, self-forgetting prophecy was false.

he energy of her sudden hope she had sprung into
tting posture; and ere the words had left her lips,
fatal bowspring was about her throat.
t was the horror of a moment. Two of the exe-
oners flung themselves upon her, and held her
n; a couple more grasped her hands; a heavy
e pressed down her heaving chest: there was a
gurgling sound, hushed as soon as it was heard—
rightful spasm, which almost hurled the strong
from above the convulsed frame—and all was
!
t day-dawn on the morrow, the young Greek was
from his prison. For several days he had refused
, and he was scarcely able to drag his fainting
bs along the uneven streets. Two men supported
, and at length he reached the termination of his
ful pilgrimage. For a moment he stood rooted
he earth—he gasped for breath—he tore away his
ban—and clenched his hands until the blood sprang
eath the nails. She whom he had loved was before
; her once fair face was swollen and livid, and
osed to the profane gaze of a countless multitude.
was before him; and the handkerchief from which
was suspended, beside the spot marked out for
self, was one which he had given her in an hour
assion, when they looked not to perish thus!
have pursued the tale until I am heart-sick, and
follow it up no farther. Yet, revolting as it is,
evertheless affords a proof of that which I have
ady adduced elsewhere; that even in their severity
Turks are merciful to their women; and carefully
ld them from the shame, even when they cannot
npt them from the suffering, of their own vices.

CHAPTER III.

Political Position of the Turks—Religion of the O
Absence of Vice among the Lower Orders—Defect of
Character—European Supineness—Policy of Russia—
and France—A Turkish Comment on England—The
ment and the People—Common Virtue—Great Me
of the Provinces—European Misconceptions.

THE more I see of the Turks, the more I am
regret their melancholy political position. E
by the introductions which I had secured,
more closely into their actual condition from th
mencement of my sojourn among them, than
the lot of most travellers, I have been compell
day to day to admit the justice of their indi
against those European powers, which, after d
them with promises that they have failed to ful
pledges that they have falsified, have reduced
anchor their hopes, and to fasten their trust,
government whose interest can be served only
ruin of the Ottoman Empire, and the subjuga
its liberties. Take them for all in all, there p
exist no people on earth more worthy of
prosperity than the great mass of the Turkish
lation; nor better qualified, alike by nature
social feeling, to earn it for themselves.

The Osmanli is unostentatiously religious. He
the great principles of his belief the rule of his c
and refers everything to a higher power than

ian. I am aware that it is the fashion to decry the
ieed of the Turk, and to place it almost on a level
ith paganism: but surely this is an error unworthy
f the nineteenth century, and of the liberality of
nglishmen. The practice of a religion, which en-
rces the necessity of prayer and charity—which is
lerant of all opposing modes of worship—and which
joins universal brotherhood, can scarcely be con-
mptible. And while the Christian, enlightened on
e great truths that are hidden from the Mahom-
dan, is compelled to pity the darkness of a faith
ich admits not the light of the Gospel, he must
rertheless admire the votary who, acting according
his ideas of duty, follows up the injunctions of his
gion with a devout zeal, and an unwearied observ-
e, that influence all his social relations; and this
merit which even their enemies have never, I
ve, denied to the Turks.

om this great first principle emanates the philo-
y both of feeling and action that distinguishes the
nli from the native of all other countries; and
philosophy renders him comparatively inac-
le to those petty, but myriad excitements of
ness and political bigotry which keep the more
and ambitious spirit of Europe

have done their costume, speaks volumes for the Turkish people. A Turk never games, never fights, never blasphemes; is guiltless of murder; is innocent of theft; and has yet to learn that poverty is a crime, or even a reproach; or that the rich man can shut his door against the mendicant who asks to share his meal.

Were I desired to point out the most glaring defect of the Turkish character, I should unhesitatingly specify the want of sincerity and good faith. I am obliged to concede that the Turk is habitually false; that he sacrifices his truth to fine phrases, and to set terms; that he is profuse of promises, and magnificent in words. But it is nevertheless certain that he himself looks upon all these splendid pledges as mere compliment; and scarcely appears to reflect that a Frank may be induced to lend to them a more weighty meaning. I had not been long in the country ere I learnt to estimate all this hyperbole at its just value; and once having done so, I found reason to feel grateful for many unexpected and unsought courtesies. Profit by the first kindly impulses of a Turk, and you will be his debtor; but trust nothing to his memory, for he will fail you.

Let not individual bad faith, however, be too harshly blamed in a people who have suffered so severely as the Turks from the same vice, in their best and dearest interests; on the part, not only of individuals, but of nations — of those civilized and enlightened nations to which they looked alike for precept and example; and which they have found wanting.

Naturally haughty and self-centred, the Osmanli placed his honour and his liberty in the hands of his European allies. They were pledged to preserve both; and it was not until the Banner of the Crescent was trailing in the dust; and a half-barbarous power bearding the Sultan in his very halls of state, that the *unwelcome* truth burst upon him that his trust had

been misplaced. The discovery was made too late; made when he had no alternative; the supineness of the Turk was no match for the subtlety of the Russian; it was a combat unequal in all its bearings; and dangerous to the Osmanli in all its relations. The natural result followed: Turkey was bowed beneath a force too mighty for her to resist; the partial civilization of the North produced its effect on the comparative barbarism of the East; and the Turk, dazzled and deluded, bewildered by the speciousness of a policy that he could not fathom, and consequently did not suspect; abandoned by the European powers on whose assistance he had relied; and unable singly either to resist the covert threats, or to reject the proffered friendship of this voluntary ally, fell into the snare which had been laid for him, and betrayed his want of internal strength to his most dangerous enemy.

The policy of Russia has been as steady and consistent as it is ambitious. What a prophet was the Empress Catherine! How perfectly she foretold the fate of Turkey. While all the other nations have suffered their interest in the Ottomon Empire to evaporate in words, and have flaunted their oratory in the eye of day, Russia has never betrayed herself by studied phrases to the crowd; but, like the giant in the fable, she has drawn on her seven-league boots, and strode silently over land and sea to her object. She has set all her engines to work; and they have wrought well. She has spared neither gold nor flattery. She has enlisted in her favour all the social feelings of the Turks. And the little presents of the Empress to the children of certain popular Pashas; and the embroidery said to have been wrought by her own Imperial hand, and sent to the ladies of their harems, are as efficacious in their way as the diamonds, the horses, and the carriages presented to the Sultan; or the pensions paid to half a dozen influential individuals of the court.

Alas, for Turkey! Her relative position with her specious ally resembles that of a huge animal in the coil of a boa constrictor, which must be smoothed down gently and gradually, ere it can be safely gorged. Its fate is but protracted; the moment of ingurgitation will come at last; and, when the serpent-folds are uncoiled, and the sated monster lies luxuriously down to digest its prey, those who have looked on, and pledged themselves to the impossibility of the feat, will find too late that it is not only perfectly practicable, but actually accomplished.

And yet France has her countless soldiery, and England her unrivalled navy, both eager to earn new glory. England and France, on whom the Osmanlis leaned with a perfect faith, and by both of whom they have been abandoned! Where is the chivalry of the one, and the philanthropy of the other?

A Turk of high rank and considerable abilities, who had an understanding to observe, and a heart to feel the position of his country, was one day conversing with me on her foreign political relations, when he exclaimed with a sudden burst of unaffected energy:—"France has failed us, it is true; but France has been at least comparatively honest in her supineness. She has never affected a wish to become the foster-mother of the world; but England—England, madam, which has boasted of her universal philanthropy, which has knocked away the fetters of millions of the blacks—England, not contented while among her nobles, in her House of Commons, and even at the very meetings of her lower classes, she was making a vaunt of her all-embracing love, and of her sympathy with the oppressed—not contented with seeing Poland weep tears of blood, and only cease to exist when the last nerve of her heart had been wrung asunder—your own happy England, secure in her prosperity and in her power, is now standing tamely by, while the vast Ottoman em-

pire—the gorgeous East, which seems to have been made for glory and for greatness—is trampled by a power like Russia! She might have saved us. She might save us yet. Where is her gallant navy? Where are her floating fortresses? But, above all, where is the heart which has so many hands to work its will? Is it the expense of a war from which she shrinks? Surely her policy is not so shallow; for she cannot require to be told how deeply her commercial interests must be compromised by the success of Russia. But, I will not pursue so painful a subject. As individuals, we respect the English; but their political character is lost in the East; we have no longer faith in England."

These were not, at all events, the arguments of a "barbarian:" and the more closely and unprejudicedly that Europeans permit themselves to examine the Turkish character, the more they will find that justice has never yet been done to it; and that Turkey merits their support as fully by her moral attributes as by her geographical position.

It is not by her nobles, by her ministers, nor by her government, that she should be judged;—her court and her people are as distinct as though they were of two different nations. They have, however, one common virtue, which is carried to an extent that must be witnessed by the natives of the West, ere it can be understood. Every one who has visited Turkey will perceive at once that I allude to their unbounded hospitality. The table of the greatest man in Constantinople is open to the poorest, whenever he chooses to avail myself of it. As he salutes the master of the house on entering, he is received with the simple word *Bouroum*—you are welcome;—and he takes his place without further ceremony. In the villages the same beautiful principle remains unaltered; and it signifies *not how little* an individual may have to give, he

always gives it cheerfully, ar
without appearing conscious
virtue, practised scantily and
ized countries.

If a Turk wishes to show
or to a stranger with whom h
come in contact, he does so in
the more refined ideas of a F
vertheless induced by this same
and fellowship. His chibouque
and when he is not engaged in
renders the indulgence difficult
ever between his lips: and his firs
is to withdraw it thence, and of
nion. — He estimates its enjoym
diately wishes to communicate it.
slight traits—details that appear
human character is composed of d
which, however faint in themselves
necessary to the perfect effect of t
easy to seize a prominent object.
striking virtues force themselves u
and are consequently ever the ready
ment. And it is from this fact that
suffered in European estimation. T
larly unobtrusive in their social relat
not seek to exhibit their moral attrib
practise daily those domestic virtues wh
of the tolerance and kindliness of their n
troubling themselves to consider whethe
at moments when they may become sub
ment. Thus it is that they have never be
to feel, or feeling to encourage, those minu
titudinous social courtesies, which, if each
in itself to a positive virtue, at least is part
of one, and lends itself to the completion of
gate that well deserves the name.

Those who have only made an acquaintance with the Turkish character in the persons of the great men of the capital, have not possessed the means of witnessing the daily practice of these endearing qualities. It is not among the haughty, the selfish, and the ambitious of any nation, that the bland and beautiful features of human nature can be contemplated. Nothing atrophises the heart like luxury; nothing deadens the feelings like the strife and struggle for power:—and in the East, where a man's fortune is ever built up upon the ruin of his neighbour, and where he springs into his seat with his foot upon the neck of a defeated rival, it were worse than folly to expect that the social virtues can be encouraged and exhibited among the great. But the Turk of the provinces is a being of a different order: a creature of calm temperament, and philosophic content; who labours in his vocations with a placid brow and a quiet heart; who honours his mother, protects his wife, and idolizes his children; is just in his dealings, sober in his habits, and unpretendingly pious; and whose board and hearth are alike free to those who desire to share them.

Such, if I have read them aright, (and, above all, if I may rely on the judgment of unbiassed and impartial individuals, more competent than myself to form a correct estimate of their general character) are the great mass of the Turkish people. Their defective government is the incubus that weighs them down; while the luxurious habits of their nobles induce extortion which withers their exertions, and in a great degree negatives the benefit of their industry. But these are evils which are not beyond remedy. "The schoolmaster," who has been so long abroad in Europe, has already given hints of travelling to the far East; and there are now several individuals connected with the Ottoman Government who comprehend the vice of the system, and are anxious to eradi-

cate the mischief. The outcry of corruption and venality has been raised, and the correctness of the implication has been admitted; while few have discovered that attempts are already making to overcome the long-standing reproach; and all must acknowledge that this Sisyphus-like task will require time and patience, and moreover opportunity and encouragement, to secure its completion.

It is not, I repeat, by the members of a government driven to unworthy acts on the one hand, and deceived by smiling sophistries on the other, that the people of Turkey should be estimated; and it is comparatively unfortunate for them as a nation, that it is precisely upon these persons that the attention is first fixed. The natural consequence ensues, that, where Europeans, rather glancing at the country than seeing it, possess neither time, opportunity, nor, it may be, even inclination, to look deeper; they carry away with them an erroneous impression of the mass, as unjust as it is unfortunate; an impression which they propagate at home, and in which they become strengthened by the very repetition of their own assertions; nor is it difficult to account in this way for the very erroneous, contradictory, and absurd notions, entertained in Europe on the subject of the Turks. Individuals have been cited as examples of a body, with which they probably possessed not one common feature, save that of country and the vices that were seared into the spirit of our degenerate Osmanli have, by the heedless chronicler who may have suffered from his delinquencies, been branded on the brow of a whole nation; as though the stream which had polluted itself for an instant by its passage over some impure substance, had power to taint the source from whence it flowed.

CHAPTER IV.

a Princely Harem—The Fair Georgian—Distinction of ian and Georgian Beauty—The Saloon—Sentiment of irem—Courteous Reception—Domestic economy of the shment—The Young Circassian—Emin Bey—Singular of the Turks—The Buyuk Hanoum—The Female —*Naivete* of the Turkish Ladies—The Forbidden Door Sultan's Chamber—The Female Renegade—Penalty of cy — Musical Ceremony — Frank Ladies and True rs — A Turkish Luncheon — Devlehäi Hanoum — Old *versus* Young Ones—The Parting Gift—The Araba— iblic Walk—Fondness of the Orientals for Fine Scenery Oak Wood.

ness and subsequent death of the Buyuk Hanoum g delayed the visit which I had been requested to the harem of the Reiss Effendi, or Minister ign affairs; and it may be remembered that the lady to whom I alluded in a former portion work, as having failed to find favour in the eyes Sultan on the occasion of the Princess Salihè's e; and whom he had been graciously pleased se from all further attendance at court, in favour r Georgian, whom he had himself provided as cessor. The aged minister had received with er gratitude the gift of his Imperial master; d not failed to make the lovely slave his wife possible speed. And the anticipation of seeing famed beauty added no little to the desire which avail myself of the very kind and flattering on of the family.

ng, *therefore*, suffered a sufficient time to elapse

after the death of the Buyuk Hanoum to
sympathy for her loss, I prepared for this long
visit, and made it in company with some Gre
friends of my own, and well known in the
the minister. On passing the Salemliek I w
disappointed by the discovery that the Reis
himself was from home; but on reaching the
we were more fortunate: and having delive
cloaks, veils, and shoes to a group of slaves
ceived us in the marble entrance-hall, we fo
one who led the way up a noble flight of
to a vast saloon; and in the next instant I
myself standing beside Devlehäi Hanoum, the
tiful Georgian.

And she *was* beautiful — magnificent! — Tall,
dark, and queenly in her proud loveliness; with
a form as is not looked on above half a dozen ti
during a long life.

The character of Georgian beauty is perfectly d
similar from that of Circassia; it is more stately a
dazzling; the whole of its attributes are differen
With the Circassian you find the clearest and fairest
skin the most delicately-rounded limbs, the softest,
sleepiest expression. the lowest voice, and the most
indolently-graceful movements. There is no soul
in a Circassian beauty; and as she pillows her pure,
pale cheek upon her small dimpled hand, you feel
no inclination to arouse her into exertion; you are
contented to look upon her, and to contemplate her
loveliness. But the Georgian is a creature of another
stamp: with eyes like meteors, and teeth almost as
dazzling as her eyes. Her mouth does not wear the
sweet and unceasing smile of her less vivacious rival,
but the proud expression that sits upon her finely
arched lips accords so well with her stately form, and
her high, calm brow, that you do not seek to change
its character.

There is a revelation of intellect, an air of majesty, about the Georgian women, which seems so utterly at variance with their condition, that you involuntarily ask yourself if they can indeed ever be slaves; and you have some difficulty in admitting the fact, even to your own reason.

Nearly all the ladies of the Princess Azmè's household are Georgians; and I have already had occasion to remark that her harem is celebrated for the beauty of its fair inhabitants.

But Devlehäi Hanoum left every individual of the Imperial Seraï of Ortakeuy immeasurably behind her. And as she welcomed us without rising from her sofa, I felt, woman though I was, as though I could have knelt in homage to such surpassing loveliness!

The sofa on which she was seated occupied the deep bay of a window overlooking the Bosphorus, at the upper end of a saloon which terminated in a flight of steps leading upwards to a second apartment, that, in its turn, afforded similar access to a third: and this long perspective was bounded by the distant view of a vine-o'ercanopied kiosque, beneath which a fine fountain of white marble was flinging its cool waters on the air, from the midst of clustering vases, filled with rare and beautiful flowering plants.

Groups of slaves were standing about the sofa; and gilded cages, filled with birds, were arranged in its immediate vicinity. I was much amused by a superb parrot, evidently the favourite of the harem, which had become so imbued with its high-bred tranquillity, as to speak almost in a whisper; and which kept up a perpetual murmur of such phrases as the following: "My heart!—My life!—My Sultan, the light of my eyes!—Am I pretty?—Do you love to look upon me?" and similar sentimentalities.

Devlehaï Hanoum was dressed in an *antery* of white

silk, embroidered all over with groups of flow
pale green; her *salva*, or trousers, were of satin
Stuart tartan, and her jacket light blue; the
that composed her chemisette was almost impalp
and the cachemire about her waist was of a
crimson. Her hair, of which several tresses had
allowed to escape from beneath the embroidered h
kerchief, was as black as the plumage of a raven;
her complexion was a clear, transparent brown.
the great charm of the beautiful Georgian was
figure. I never beheld anything more lovely; to
smoothly-moulded graces of eighteen she joined
majesty and stateliness of middle life; and you forg
as you looked upon her, that she had ever been boug
at a price, to remember only that she was the wife
one of the great officers of the Empire.

Nothing could exceed the courtesy of her welcome
except, perhaps, its gracefulness; and the charming
smile with which she told me how anxious were the
Buyuk Hanoum, herself, and Conjefèm Hanoum, to
testify, by every means in their power, the delight
they felt in having me for a guest. For a moment I
was bewildered; I had made no inquiries relatively to
the domestic economy of the harem previous to my
visit, and had imagined that, as a matter of course,
the lovely Georgian had become Buyuk Hanoum by
the death of the children's mother. But this was far
from being the case; the Pasha having married in
early life a Constantinopolitan lady of high family,
who had retained her supremacy in the harem,
although the affections of the Reiss Effendi had been
transferred to the parent of his sons. The fair Geor-
gian proving also childless, the fortunate mother had
never forfeited her hold upon his heart, and had
continued until the hour of her death to be the first
object of his favour. But my astonishment did not

nd even here; for, when all this had been explained o me, another question yet remained to be answered: Who was Conjefêm Hanoum?

Conjefêm Hanoum, who was in the bath when we rrived, was a beautiful young Circassian, who had been urchased twelve months previously by the minister, n the excess of his disappointment that the Georgian did not make him a father; and whom, in the first rush of his delight on discovering that she was likely to become a mother, he had also married. Unfortunately for her, the child died in the hour of its birth, and once more the anxious husband found himself disappointed in his hopes.

These domestic details, which were given with a *sang froid* and composure evincing how little the heart of Devlehäi Hanoum was interested in the recital, were succeeded by coffee, which was served with great ceremony by about a dozen slaves; the salver being overlaid with gold tissue, as on occasions of state. A stroll in the garden followed, where we wandered up and down the shady walks, among the flowers and fountains; and where we encountered the three sons of the minister.

Emin Bey, the elder of the brothers, was barely eleven years of age; and had I not seen him, I should never have been able to picture to myself anything at all like the object on which I then looked. So extraordinary and unwieldy a being as this unhappy boy I never before met with; and I am moderate in declaring that he must have measured at least two yards round the body. His jacket of Broussa silk, striped with gold, lay in large folds about his shoulders and waist; his head appeared to have been attached to his chest without the intervention of a neck; his hands, his feet, all were proportionably bulky; and when I looked at the unfortunate child, I could not help thinking how much he was to be pitied, despite

the rank and riches which surrounded him. The younger boys were fine, noble-looking youths, without the slightest tendency to corpulency; but Emin Bey is the favourite of the minister, who gratifies his every whim; and from the extreme amiability of his disposition, he is generally popular in the harem.

The sons of Turkish families always inhabit the women's apartments until they marry; when, however young they may be, they are immediately shut out; but, by an extraordinary and apparently inexplicable arrangement, they are not permitted, as soon as they have ceased to be children, to intrude themselves on the Buyuk Hanoum without her express permission, although they have free access to every other apartment in the harem. Thus Emin Bey, unless summoned by her express desire, could not visit the elder wife of his father, a venerable old person of at least seventy years of age, although he was constantly in the society of the two younger and lovelier ladies; while the other boys, yet mere children, came and went as they listed, unchidden and almost unnoticed.

As soon as the Buyuk Hanoum had left the bath, we were invited to her apartment; and as I looked from the withered and feeble woman who lay stretched on the sofa before me, propped with cushions, glittering with diamonds, and busied with her chibouque, to the stately and gorgeous Georgian in all the glow of her proud youth, I had difficulty in believing that they could indeed be the wives of one man!

When I had returned her salutation, and seated myself beside her, I had time to look round upon the arrangement of her apartment. On a cushion near her sofa crouched a frightful female dwarf, old and wrinkled, and misshapen, with a Sycorax expression of face that made me shudder; and immediately beside her sat Devlehäi Hanoum, in a high-backed chair of crimson velvet and gilding, looking like the haughty

mother of Vathek with one of her attendant spirits travelling at her feet. A line of female slaves extended from the sofa to the door, and several others were grouped at the lower end of the saloon, which was most magnificently fitted up.

The never-failing hospitality of the East prompted the first question of the venerable hostess. She inquired if I had been satisfied with my reception; and assured me of the gratification she derived from seeing me in the palace of her husband: she then thanked me for the careful toilette which I had made to visit her, and in the most courtly manner admired every thing that I wore. The usual extraordinary queries ensued: Was I married? Had I ever been affianced? Did I intend to marry? Could I embroider? How old was I? Which was the prettiest, Stamboul or London? And many others of the like kind; but they were all put so good-humouredly, and so perfectly as a matter of course, that it was impossible not to be amused, although I had answered them a dozen times before.

There is a great charm in the graceful *naïveté* of a well-born Turkish lady. She tells you directly what she thinks of you, without harbouring an idea that even truth may sometimes prove unpalatable. If you do not please her, you are never left in doubt upon the subject; while if, on the contrary, she considers you well-looking or agreeable, she lavishes on you the most endearing epithets, and always terminates her address by imploring you to love her. From the moment that you find yourself beneath her roof, you are as completely unfettered as though you were in your own house. Are you hungry? In five minutes, by merely desiring the first slave with whom you come in contact *to* bring you food, you may seat yourself at table. Are you weary? Select the sofa you prefer, surround yourself with cushions, and should you wish to remain

undisturbed, close the door of the apartm
when you are refreshed, you will be greeted
reappearance with a second smile of welcome
are restless you may wander over the who
there is neither indiscretion nor impertine
doing. In short, from the first instant of yo
tication in a Turkish family, it is your own f
are not as much at your ease as your hostess

On quitting the apartment of the Buyuk
which was oppressive from its closed windo
extreme heat of the weather, we strolled al
palace, which is very extensive, and splen
arrangements. One room only was close
us. It was that in which the mother of th
children had breathed her last; and into
minister had desired every article, however
her personal property, to be removed and
until he causes them to be disposed of by p
and the proceeds secured to her sons.

Turning away from this forbidden door
ceeded to an apartment in which the Sulta
night about three years ago, and which ha
been reopened, at his express desire, for
the family. The Imperial bedstead yet re
the golden hangings have been removed,
probably since figured in *anterys* and *salt*
fair forms of the ladies of the harem. Th
now appropriated to the master of the hous
a sofa-cushion lay his watch, his hand-mir
small agate box containing opium pills.

Having understood that there was a you
girl on the establishment, who had been in
the representations of interested and treach
visers, to embrace Mahomedanism, I expres
to see her, when she was immediately summ
made her appearance with great reluctan
evidently most heartily ashamed of her apost

he told us that she was very unhappy; for, al-
igh she was treated with great kindness, she could
reconcile herself to the sin which she had com-
ed; and that, had she been left to her own free
, she never should have thought of taking such a
. A few weeks only had elapsed since she had
me a Turk, but she already felt that, although
taunt was uttered by her companions, they never
sight of the fact of her being a renegade; and,
she not known the penalty which must be paid,
declared that she should at once have uttered her
nd recantation.

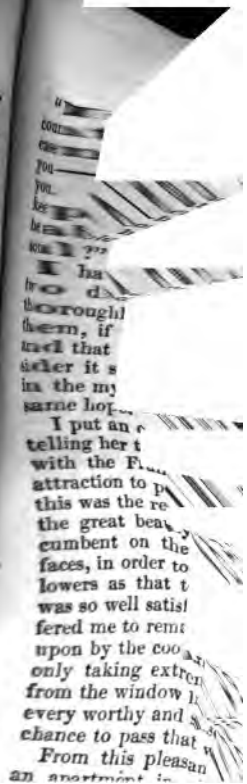
Well might she pause as she remembered it; for
penalty is death! When once a Christian female
been induced to utter the simple prayer which is
only necessary ceremony—the few brief words which
lare that "There is but ONE GOD, and Mahomed
he Prophet of GOD"—she is a Mahomedan; and,
uld she afterwards repent her apostacy, and resolve
returning to the bosom of the Christian Church, and
determination become suspected before she has
e or opportunity to escape from the power of the
ks, the waters of the Bosphorus terminate at once
project and her life.

Nor is a male renegade placed in a more secure
ition. The Mahomedans tolerate no off-falling
n their faith. They are bound by their law twice
ing their lives to *invite* a Christian to embrace the
gion of the Prophet; but they never outrun the
it of their instructions: they simply suggest the
version, and use no endeavour to enforce it; while,
the other hand, they permit no apostacy—death is
instant penalty for the bare idea. Few missionaries,
wever talented, or however zealous, ever made a
kish convert; and no renegade Christian, unless by
ne rare chance he succeeded in escaping at the critical

resolution became suspected, ever sin
on.

Hanoum had been particular in her
very attention should be paid to ma
locks and watches throughout the
were not few) were put into requi
hestra, completed by a very harsh
ce into discord by the fair hands of
This confusion of sweet sounds
t courtesies which can be exhibited
l it was quite laughable to stroll
alleries, and to escape from the
e left hand, to find yourself in the
ole in Massaniello on the right;
ind you, to catch a fine cadence
were beginning to imagine that

eached a spacious saloon, whose
s occupied recesses in each of
ed the hope of a little air, I not
but the jalousies also, to the
e of slaves who were looking
I explained to them that they
proach the forbidden opening,
in such a state of anxiety that
xplain what troubled them:
e two, a plain, clumsy-look-
nd thirty, and as unattractive
agined, told me that, as the
so much, she could not bear
ous a sin. I requested to
ession consisted, when she
:—"Suppose a Turk pass
ld look up, and l
naun, and marry



"Imagine then the sin for which you will be accountable, if you continue seated in front of that open casement. Some unhappy true believer will look upon you—he will desire to have you for his wife—and when you continue deaf to his passion, he will grow sick, keep his bed, and probably die; and how will you be able to appear in paradise with such a sin upon your soul?"

I have related this little anecdote, because it proves two distinct facts; first, that the Turkish women thoroughly believe that a happy immortality awaits them, if they do not forfeit it by their own misdeeds; and that they are moreover tolerant enough to consider it sure that even the Giaours, who have no share in the mysteries of Mahomed, have nevertheless the same hope.

I put an end to the generous fears of the woman by telling her that such an occurrence could not take place with the Frank females, who did not possess sufficient attraction to peril the peace of a true believer, and that this was the reason they walked about unveiled; while the great beauty of the fair Turks had rendered it incumbent on the Prophet to make them cover their faces, in order to prevent such misfortunes to his followers as that to which she had just alluded, and she was so well satisfied with my explanation that she suffered me to remain peacefully in my corner, breathed upon by the cool air which swept over the Bosphorus, only taking extreme care to remain at such a distance from the window herself, as to ensure the heart-ease of every worthy and susceptible Musselmaun who might chance to pass that way.

From this pleasant position we were summoned to an apartment in which refreshments had been provided for us; and as we had expressed no inclination to eat, these consisted only of fruits, conserves, and similar trifles. Pyramids of pears and grapes, saucers

of olives and cream-cheese; vases of
dishes of cucumber neatly arranged, and
nute portions, formed the staple of the
were interspersed with goblets of rose-sce
To myself alone another luxury was added,
of a small cake of extremely delicate brea
the exclusive use of the minister.

The fair Georgian could by no means be
to seat herself at table; and although the
was filled with attendants, she persisted in
upon me herself; and during a considerable tim
amusement in decorating my hair with bun
small pears, which had been gathered with gre
in order to preserve the leaves that grew about
While we were thus agreeably employed, Con
Hanoum entered from the bath. She was a
languishing beauty of sixteen, exquisitely dressed,
extremely fascinating; with a slight expressio
melancholy about her, that seemed as much the eff
of a quiet coquetry as the result of her natural tem
perament.

When our primitive repast was concluded, the beau-
tiful Georgian inquired of my friends whether they
could suggest any thing likely to give me pleasure
which it was in her power to offer. As the day was
lovely, and the sun beginning to decline, we availed
ourselves of her politeness, and decided on a drive,
when the carriage was immediately ordered, amid the
regrets of the two younger ladies that they could not
accompany us, which, from their not having pre-
viously obtained the permission of the Pasha, it was
impossible for them to do. Had the Buyuk Hanoum
desired to be of the party, she would have been at
perfect liberty to indulge the inclination, as from her
advanced age no cause of jealousy could possibly exist
on the part of the husband; but the other wives were
too young and too pretty to be trusted to their own

discretion by a worthy old gentleman of nearly four-score; and they were consequently compelled, much to their annoyance, to see us depart alone.

When we had taken leave of the Buyuk Hanoum in her apartment, where she still lay pillowed upon her cushions; and that I had promised to avail myself of her earnest invitation that I would repeat my visit; we returned to the great centre saloon where the other ladies awaited us, surrounded by a crowd of slaves, one of whom carried upon a salver a pile of embroidered handkerchiefs, worked by the fair fingers of the two younger Hanoums, with gold thread and coloured silks. This gift, which had been prepared for me, was accompanied by a thousand kindly comments. I was desired to examine one piece of needlework, and to remark that I carried away with me the heart of the donor; upon another I was told that I should find a bouquet of flowers, and discover that they had presented me with the portrait which they should retain of me in their own memories; and I at length bade them farewell, amid a thousand admonitions neither to forget nor to neglect the promise that I had made to renew my visit.

The araba awaited us in the court of the palace, and ere long we were all comfortably established in a roomy and commodious waggon (for that is the correct name of the carriage), drawn by two oxen blazing with gilt foil and spangles; upon a mattress of crimson shag, embroidered and fringed with gold, amid cushions of similar material, and beneath a canopy of purple decorated in the same rich style. Two attendants, in the livery of the minister, ran beside the carriage; and although our progress, from the nature of the animals which drew us, was not so rapid as many travellers might desire, we nevertheless contrived to spend a couple of delicious hours in driving up and down a public walk, *overshadowed* with fine old oaks, beneath

whose gnarled and far-spreading boughs parties of shade-loving individuals had spread their mats, and were smoking their pipes, or eating their pic-nic dinners, within reach of a fine fountain and a commodious coffee-kiosque; and in the full enjoyment of as glorious a view as ever taught the eye of man to linger lovingly on the fair face of nature.

Assuredly no race of men ever enjoyed a beautiful country more thoroughly than the Orientals. Every pretty spot is sure to be discovered, and appropriated on each occasion of festival. Those who can possess themselves of commanding points, and who have the means of doing so, build kiosques and plant vineyards about them, amid which they spend the long summer day; while the poorer classes carry their mats and their pipes to their favourite nooks; and enjoy, if not as exclusively, at least as heartily, as their more fortunate neighbours, the bright prospect and the balmy air.

The Turk, especially, finds his happiness in this most simple and most natural of all pleasures. Hour after hour he will sit with his chibouque between his lips, gazing about him unweariedly, and communing with his own thoughts in all the peacefulness and luxury engendered by the beauty of the locality; and the exterior appearance of his dwelling is never considered, if he can contrive an angle, or throw out a bay, which will enable him to command a striking feature in the landscape, or a longer stretch of the lake-like Bosphorus.

On the present occasion the oak wood was dotted all over with little groups of holyday-makers. Children ran in and out among the trees, making the breeze glad with laughter; the oxen which had been unyoked from the different carriages were browsing on the young leaves; merry voices called to each other from amid the underwood; the fountain was surrounded by servants; the coffee-kiosque thronged with guests; and

the scene was altogether
delightful, that it was no
ultimately drove down to t
awaited us, and found ou
smoothly and swiftly over
channel.

CHAPTER V.

Military Festival—Turkish Ladies—Female Curiosity—Eastern Coquetry—A few Words on the Turkish *Fez*—The Imperial Horse-Guards—Disaffection of the Imperial Guard—False Alarms—The Procession—The Troops at Pera—Imitative Talent of the Turks—Disappointment.

HAVING accidentally rowed down to Pera in order to visit some friends, a week or two after the presentation of the Sultan's portrait to the Imperial Guard at Scutari, we were startled on arriving at Dolma Batché to see the shore lined with the caïques and barges of the Pashas, and the principal officers of the fleet; and the heights covered with military. Such being the case, we landed at the pier below the palace, and I addressed myself to a group of Turkish ladies who had established themselves very comfortably under the shade of a fine plane-tree, to ascertain the cause of so much unusual parade.

Women assuredly have some freemasonry by which they contrive to be intelligible to each other, for it is certain that, with barely half a dozen sentences of the language, I have frequently kept up something that bordered upon a conversation; and on the present occasion, by a judicious use of my very limited knowledge, and considerable gesticulation, I made the persons to whom I put the question perfectly comprehend its import. The reply commenced by an invitation to avail myself of part of their carpet, which, as it was

both by their appearance and attendance,
ere highly respectable, I did not hesitate
they then informed me that the Sultan
n an hour, in state, to present his por-
artillery, at their barracks, in the Great

nutes my new acquaintance had confided
they were sisters, and that a sweet little
between them was the only child of the
and would be immensely rich: and had,
ired my country, and my relationship to
ho stood aloof, lest he should annoy them;
ey forthwith invited into the shade by the
iven to all Franks:—"Gel, Capitan, Gel,"
aptain, come—while the daughter of the
a pale, slight, dark-eyed houri, who was
scious of her extreme beauty, played off
little coquettish airs, to attract his atten-
she let the lower portion of her *yashmac*
over the prettiest mouth in the world;
is very unusual among the Turkish fe-
e set of teeth, which she displayed in a
fected embarrassment at her awkwardness;
her great haste to remedy the misfortune,
d to throw back her *feridjhe*, and disclose
l arms as dazzling as mountain snow; and
licate little hands, of which the nails were
ned with henna. I had seen several *yash-*
ed in the harem, but I had never yet met
hich required so much arranging as this;
ng Hanoum was so persevering, and kept
soft little murmur of Turkish ejaculations,
ime to take an excellent lesson in the diffi-
celling.

his within ten paces of one of the sentinels,
leaning cross-legged against the stock of
, according to the most improved system

sh discipline; and who did not interfere to re
the Frank strangers from the vicinity of
n, although a couple of years ago it would ha
ps subjected my father to temporary imprison
and certainly to insult.

we had already had sufficient experience of
attention which His Sublime highness ever pai
ne on public occasions, we felt no inclination t
half the morning under a tree on the edge of
road; and, having ascertained by the fir
nels that the procession would pass the milita
ge, we accordingly made a parting salutation t
iew friends, and plunged once more into the
hine.

we ascended the hill we came upon a squadro
ie Imperial Guard, who were to form a portion o
how, and who were lying comfortably in the dus
asleep, and others nearly so; while the horse
huddled together in groups in the centre of the
! This was a portion of the corps which I ment
ed in my account of the marriage festivities of the
ncess Mihirmàh, and they certainly were considera
more like soldiers at a distance, than when seen
on our very path.

othing requires more management than a fez.
nay be so arranged as to form even a becoming
l-dress; but wo betide the unlucky wight who
s it on until he is *fezed* over head and ears! As
n by the Turkish soldiers, it were impossible to
ceive anything more hideous; generally nearly
k, and always more or less greasy; some fling it
n into their necks, where it forms a deep fold,
rs drag it over their eyebrows, and others again
y their whole heads in it, till it takes the form of
skull, and looks like a red clay basin. I need not
atiate on the appearance of their white overalls,
n on such an occasion as the present, because I

stated that the wearers were lying about
and it were equally supererogatory to do
lude to the effect of a lancer jacket of
braided with yellow cord, nine times out
t.

were in excellent keeping with their
esented a beautiful independence of ac-
Some had blue saddle-cloths, and some
ies; some scarlet, and some white; some
n saddles, and some Tartar; some had
y of them, by-the-by, to my great amuse-
d with cucumbers, of which the Turks are
d), and some were without. Their lances
ough they had dropped down among them
heir points were so glittering, and their
ions so fresh and bright, for a Turkish
ways careful of his arms. They do not
raceful weapons like our own lancers, al-
are similarly provided with slings, but
e in the Russian fashion.

urious to witness the bearing of the Sultan
ion, as, on the presentation of his portrait
portion of the Imperial Guard had mur-
y against so glaring an infringement of
hich forbids literally the likeness of any
to be taken; whereas this had, moreover,
with great pomp, and saluted after the
as would have been the august personage
resented. "We are becoming Giaours—
as the complaint—"The Franks are turn-
l of the Sultan, and he will soon be as

ntimation of this disaffection on the part
s which reached the inhabitants of the
the appearance of bodies floating in the
and the fact that a Greek captain, who
his vessel in the current, found it clogged

incomprehensible manner; and, on employing a dozen men to remove the evil, discovered that it was choked with corpses!

If so decided a manifestation of the sentiments of the soldiery, it was a courageous act of the Sultan thus immediately on a repetition of the offence; and the rather that a portion of the troops composed of the sons of the Janissaries, who could be supposed to entertain the most favourable feelings towards the destroyer of their fathers; and who would gladly embrace so favourable an opportunity of satisfying their own hate, as that which permitted them to enforce their expressions of disgust with the laws of the Prophet, and the authority of their Sultan.

It was uncertain whether His Highness might not descend at the College, as he had done on a previous occasion, three temporary steps covered with red cloth had been prepared for him to alight from his horse; and a carpet laid down from thence to the apartment of Azmè Bey, where a handsomely-embroidered and elaborately-cushioned sofa had been arranged for his reception. In this room we took up our position, near a window that commanded the long reach of road, by which the procession was to arrive; and we had calculated justly on the procrastination of the Sultan, for we waited nearly four hours before the *cortège* was actually in motion. "The cry was 'they come!'" and during all that time they came. There were two or three false alarms. The drums beat off at the palace, and were answered by those on the heights, and at the college; the gallant cavalry covered themselves up out of the dust, and mounted their horses: the Bey turned out his guard, and all in vain. There was a mistake somewhere; and consequently the cavalry dismounted, and lay down again to finish their sleep; and the young colonel turned

the guard; and we drank another glass of sherbet, and tried to think that we were not at all out of patience; in which attempt, I, at least, was very unsuccessful.

At length the moment came, and the distant sounds of a military band announced the approach of the procession. The unfortunate guardsmen sprang to their saddles for the fourth time, and formed in double file; in which order they moved forward at a foot's pace. They were succeeded by the military staff of the army, and the field officers of the different regiments; the majors rode first, and were followed by the superior ranks in regular succession, until the gorgeous train of Pashas brought up the rear. The Pashas were succeeded by about thirty musicians: and then followed a detachment of infantry marching in double files, between whose ranks moved the open carriage of the Sultan, drawn by four fine grey horses, each led by a groom; and bearing the portrait of His Highness carefully enveloped in green baize. Said Pasha, the Sultan's younger son-in-law, preceded the carriage, dressed in a hussar uniform, and mounted on a noble Arabian; and it was followed by the Seraskier and Halil Pasha riding abreast; succeeded by a squadron of cavalry.

But where, then, was the Sultan?

Alas! for our high-flown expectations—he had reviewed five thousand men in the course of the morning on the heights above the palace, after which he had started off for the Valley of Kahaitchana, in an open carriage and four; leaving his portrait to the care of the Pashas.

We reached Pera amid the firing of cannon, the pealing of musketry, and the beating of drums; and just in time to see the whole of the troops march through to their respective barracks; which they did six deep, and in very tolerable style; a circumstance rendered the

more astonishing by the fact that many
their shoes literally tied upon their feet!

It was impossible not to be struck b
of the perseverance and adoptive powers
on seeing this body of men; who, althoug
under all the disadvantages of slovenly d
fective instruction, had, nevertheless, in
succeeded in presenting an appearance of
discipline. Self-taught — for the Turks
deterred from exerting that which their
sense led them to feel would be the most effic
of speedily attaining the perfection at wh
aimed; that is, of profiting by the instru
foreigners; they have, amid all the difficu
their position, succeeded in proving that the
tative talents are very considerable; and the
policy of Russia has only tended to demonstr
those who have had an opportunity of comparin
present state of the Turkish army with that in
it was but three years ago, that the Osmanli have
inclination to avail themselves of the opportunities
are afforded to them of studying the institutions of o
nations; where their efforts are not frustrated by
litical considerations.

Recent events have, in some degree, weakened t
Muscovite influence at the Sublime Porte; and E
ropean officers have lately arrived in Constantinop
who, should they be permitted to act, will probabl
soon convert the "materiel" of the Turkish army into
available troops, calculated to do honour alike to their
country, to their instructors, and to their Emperor.
The docility of the Turkish soldier is admirable; and
his desire of improvement so unwearying that it is a
common occurrence for him to spend his hours of re-
laxation in perfecting himself, as far as his own know-
ledge enables him to do so, in the management of his

ock; while the care and time which he bestows
the arm itself, is visible at once from the lustre of
right barrel, and the cleanliness of its whole ap-
ance.

at to return to the troops at Pera. The officers
only distinguishable by their arms, being as
ily laden as the men, with a knapsack, a mess
a cloak, and a prayer-carpet; and the different
s were attended by numerous water-carriers, with
ll leathern cisterns under their arms, and clay-
king-bowls suspended from a strap about their
ts.

fter traversing Pera, the several regiments filed
in different directions; and the faubourg resumed
accustomed tranquillity. The interest of the pa-
nt had however been greatly lessened by the
nce of the Sultan, who should have been its
ad and front;" and I only reconciled myself to
disappointment by engaging to join a party who
e to spend the following Friday at the Asiatic
et Waters, where preparations were making to
ive the Sovereign of one of the most gorgeous
ires of the earth—the Monarch of a million de-
ations!

CHAPTER VI.

Turkish Ladies "at Home"—The Asiatic Sweet Waters—Ground—The Glen of the Valley—Hand Mirrors—Hol Groups—Courtesy of the Oriental Females to S rangers—Beautiful Devotee—The Pasha's Wife—A Guard of Hon Change of Scene—The Fortress of Mahomet—Amiabi the Turkish Character.

THE traveller who desires to see the Turkish w really "at home," should visit the beautiful val Guiuk-Suy, the Sweet Waters of Asia, on a F during the hot months. This lovely spot, shut three sides by lofty hills covered with vegetati open to the Bosphorus, immediately opposite t Castle of Europe, the prison of the Janissaries, the branch-embowered river which gives its na the locality (literally "chest water") runs spa into the sun-lighted channel.

The transition is delicious, as, shooting rou abrupt point of land, gay with its painted pala leafy garden, you glide into the deep shadows little river, whose fringe of trees throws a t softness over the water. Beneath the boughs ris usual on every spot of peace and beauty, the col headstones of many a departed Musselmaun; wh birds, screened from the noonday heats, are ever ing forth their glad song in all the gushing joy of conscious security.

Your boatmen, refreshed by the grateful cool the locality, speedily bring you to an open which, spanning the river at its narrowest point, the secluded valley, in which the holyday-k

wd are wont to assemble during the noontide shine, with the more open space on which they gregate towards the evening, to profit by the ers of a superb fountain of white marble, richly rned with arabesques; and to inhale the fresh eze that sweeps over the Bosphorus.

The stretch of turf on which the ladies spread their pets, drive their arabas, and spend the long sum- r morning, is screened from the river by a small ce thickly wooded, and appropriated to the men, o smoke their chibouques, and enjoy their sherbet l water-melons, far from the gossipry of their re voluble helpmates. Passing through this "holy ound," you come at once upon the lovely nook, ich, surrounded on all sides by trees, and thronged h company, affords one of the prettiest *coup-d'œils* the world.

Here the Sultanas move slowly along over the ooth turf, the vizors of their oxen flashing with l and plate glass, and the deep golden edges of ir araba-awnings glittering in the sunshine; while y lean on their silken cushions, with their *yash- cs* less carefully arranged than on ordinary occa- ns. Here the gilded carriage of the Pasha's rem, with its gaily-tasselled draperies, and its adily-caparisoned horses, rolls rapidly over the lding verdure; while the veiled beauty within eens her pure, pale loveliness with a fan of feathers, ich serves at once to amuse her idleness, and to play the fairy-like hand that grasps its ivory handle, th the priceless gems which glitter on the slender gers and the taper wrist. Here the wives of the y, the Effendi, and the Emir, spread their Persian rpets and their crimson rugs; and, while the elder dies remove the fold of muslin which veils the lower rtion of their faces, and indulge themselves in the xury of the *kadeun-chibouque*, or woman's pipe,

the younger of the party find amuse
grossing, in the re-arrangement of t
with the assistance of a hand-mir
travelling companion of a Turkish
held by a slave who kneels at the ed

These hand-mirrors are the pret
able; and the taste displayed in th
well as the expensive materials of
frequently composed, prove their gr
the eyes of an Oriental beauty. O
pensable playthings is constantly b
harem; every latticed araba has four
into the gilding of its interior, in w
her charms reflected during her drive
lady would ever undertake the thr
from Buyukdèrè to Stamboul, witho
with her the beloved *ainali*.

Some of these mirrors (which are
circular form, and generally provid
of the same material as the settin
ornamented), are mounted in a fram
gold or silver, studded with precious
as I need scarcely remark, are to b
Imperial Serais, or in the palaces of
among the nobles. Others are of
wrought with seed-pearls in the m
terns; or worked with gold, which
perfection. Nor are the meaner clas
ainalis, framed in wood, gaudily p
quently most minute in size.

The Valley of Guiuk-Suy, throng
tempted to describe it, presents a
Oriental in its character. The crim
riages moving along beneath the t
veiled groups scattered over the fresh
motion of the attendant slaves; the
vendors of *mohalibè* and *sèkèl* (or sw

point to point with their plateaux upon
furnished with a raised shelf, on which
or china plates destined to serve for the
pink and yellow glories of the other, are
displayed; the *yahourt*-merchant, with
on his shoulder, and his swinging trays
a little brown clay basins, showing forth
whiteness of his merchandize; the vagrant
f dancing bears and grinning monkeys;
t Greek, with his large, flapping hat of
aw, and Frank costume, hurrying along
to group with his pails of ice; and
ng his delicate and perishable luxury in as
ages as he is likely to earn piastres; the
water-carrier, with his large turban, his
of red earth, and his crystal goblet; the
the higher harems, laden with carpets,
and refreshments for their mistresses; the
s, with their ruddy peaches, their clusters
apes from Smyrna, their pyramidically-
, and their rich plums, clothed in bloom,
l with their fresh leaves about them; the
ants sitting among their unheaped riches;
with their emerald coloured rinds, and the
s, looking like golden balls, and scenting
it sweeps over them; the variety of cos-
ted by the natives, always most striking
tic shore; the ringing rattle of the tam-
l the sharp wiry sound of the Turkish
panied by the shrill voices of half a dozen
ed in a semi-circle in front of a beauty-
— all combine to complete a picture so
s kind, that, were an European to be
to Guiuk-Suy, without any intermediate
he would believe himself to be under the
nchanter, and beholding the realization of

* Water-melons.

what he had hitherto considered as the mere extravagance of some Eastern story-teller.

The Valley, or at least that portion of it which I am now describing, is further embellished by a magnificent beech called the Sultan's Tree, beneath which the Imperial carpet is spread for his Highness when he visits Guiuk-Suy. And a little beyond this rises a platform shaded with willows, and occupied at one of its extremities by a handsome head-stone. I could not learn what favoured dust had been deposited on this sweet spot.

When we had selected a pleasant nook, and had spread our carpet, arranged our cushions, and provided ourselves with fruit, one of the party started on a shooting expedition among the hills; and my friend Madame S—— and myself strolled round the magic circle, which became each moment more thronged. We received many a gracious salutation as we moved along, in return for our glances of involuntary admiration; and at length were fairly stopped by a smiling entreaty that we would inform a party of ladies, who had been too aristocratic in their ideas, or too indolent in their habits, to descend from their araba, who we were, whence we came, and to answer a score more of those simple questions, which make a claim only upon your patience. Not one among them was pretty, but they were all polite and good natured; and, if they did ask us many things which concerned them not in any possible way, they at least communicated to us, in their turn, a variety of circumstances relating to themselves, which regarded us quite as little.

Nothing can exceed the courtesy of the Turkish ladies to strangers. They always appear delighted to converse with an European female who seems disposed to meet them half way; and they do so with a frankness and ease which at once destroy every feeling of *gêne* on the part of the stranger. In five minutes every thing

ave is at your service; the fruit of which they
rtaking, and the scented sherbet that they have
red with their own hands. To make acquaint-
with them, you require only to be cheerful, will-
indulge their harmless curiosity, and ready to
their civility in as far as you are enabled to do
here is none of that withering indifference, or that
illous scrutiny, which obtains so much in Europe,
dreaded from a Turkish gentlewoman; but there
the contrary, an earnest urbanity about her
is delightful, and which emanates from the in-
e politeness so universal among the natives;
ed with a simplicity of feeling, and a sincerity of
nature, that lends a double charm to the cour-
of life. Nor is the eye less satisfied than the
, in these moments of agreeable, although brief,
union; for the graceful bearing of an Oriental
e greatly enhances the charm of her ready kind-
and her self-possession, and dignity of manner,
r her superior to the paltry affectation of assumed
ess; while they convince you that she would be
ompt to resent impertinence, as she had been
to proffer courtesy.

hen we bowed our adieu to the party in the araba,
prepared to continue our stroll, the elder lady pre-
d to us four large cucumbers, a vegetable highly
ed by the Orientals, and eaten by them in the

A short distance beyond the araba, we came upon a beautiful young female, who had alighted from her carriage, and was kneeling upon a costly Persian prayer-carpet, on whose eastern edge was placed a vase of wrought silver. Three slaves stood, with folded arms, immediately behind her; and she was so completely absorbed in her devotions, that not even the apparition of a couple of European females, always objects of curiosity to a Turkish lady, caused her to lift her eyes. She was strikingly handsome, and her attitude was most graceful, as, with her small hands clasped together, she bowed her head to the earth in the deep, voiceless prayer, which is the heart's offering, and requires not to shape itself into words. Had she been otherwise engaged, I could have lingered for an hour, for the mere pleasure of looking upon one of the loveliest faces in the world; but I felt that it would be indelicate to intrude upon her devotions, and once more I moved forward.

No occupation, whether of business or pleasure, is permitted to interfere with the religious duties of a Turkish female, however distinguished her rank; nor has locality or circumstance any influence in deterring her from their observance. It is a common occurrence to see the sister of the Sultan alight from her araba at Kahaitchana, or any other public place in which she may chance to find herself when her accustomed hour of devotion arrives: and, when her slaves have spread her prayer-carpet, kneel down within sight and sound of the crowds that throng the walk, as calmly and collectedly as though she were shut within one of the gilded chambers of her own Seraï. It were idle to comment upon such a fact.

What a glad scene it was as we wandered on under the leafy branches of the tall trees, over the fresh turf, breathed upon by the cool breeze that swept down into the valley from the encircling hills, giving and receiving

ions! The Sultan was momentarily
ny a dark eye was turned at intervals
ace of the glen, and the noble beech
ave already made allusion; but they
er in vain, for, greatly to our disap-
not appear.
gress we came upon an araba which
our attention. The painted oxen*
rn, and were grazing a few paces off;
laves, reaching the whole length of
ranged side by side; and two negroes
nediately in front. All these indica-
ced us to slacken our pace as we ap-
glance with more than ordinary at-
he occupants of the vehicle. They
er; a serious-looking elderly person,
with her chibouque; and a fair
o buried among her richly embroi-
at she was scarcely visible.

r *fair*, but that is not the correct ex-
e raised herself at our approach, and
ore her face a hand-mirror, curiously
mposed of ostrich feathers, I never
g living with such a complexion.
y white, that no difference was per-
the folds of her *yashmac*, and the
y rested! She looked as though she
tial prey of a vampire; who, sated
s victim, had left his unholy repast
d. But such eyes! so dark; so sad;
s black as night, resting upon the
sable fringes; I never saw such eyes,
! Her nose was thin, and finely-

ore distinguished harems have their arabas
pale a colour as to be almost white: and
inted all over in patches of orange colour,
ost extraordinary appearance.

shaped; and the perfect
by the tightly-adjusted
spectral beauty I ever b
rare description. She wa
hands and brow were brig
she was unhappy; there w
the expression of her pale f
manner, that told of a bur
given much to have learnt
There must have been s
my involuntary conviction,
gaze that I turned upon he
eyes, she smiled a sad, swe
hand upon her heart as thoug
melancholy feeling with whic
beauty. The elder dame, m
silence, as calmly as if she h
more light-hearted companion
of the costly araba glittered i
within that gorgeous vehicle
save its drooping mistress. I mad
but failed to ascertain who she
alone was able to assure me tha
wife of a Pasha; but the name
escaped the memory of my infor
to content myself with this very
ment of intelligence.
Having completed our tour o
possession of our cushions, and re
the delicious water-melons which
refresh us after our walk; and a s
ish ladies shortly afterwards followe
themselves under the shade of the
we initiated into the mysteries of
science which has just become hig
them from their adoption of ringle
ourselves with these follies for half

santly; and having shared our fruit and
with our new acquaintance, and perceiv
company were rapidly departing for the
established myself under a fine beech-tre
ketch of the locality. But although co
ew persons remained in the glen, I soon
hat enough yet lingered to form a dense cr
e which effectually prevented my obtaini
any object more picturesque than a *yas*
ridjhe; and I was about to give up the at
spair, when a Turkish officer approached,
ested me to favour him with a sight of my
ok.

complied at once, and was rewarded for my
uiescence in the most agreeable way in the
perceiving by its contents that it was not
places which I was transferring to my little vo
xplained to the ladies who had gathered abo
I was prevented from prosecuting my desig
act of their having entirely shut out the v
nost anxious to secure; and at the first hint
d aside to the right and left with all the
ur imaginable; one succeeding the other in l
er me, to examine my work; and all rewar
rbearance with exclamations of "*Mashalla*
Pek Guzel." *

ngth the little sketch was completed; a
up my pencils, I thanked the officer who h
d on guard over me and my undertaking, ve
for his politeness; and we followed the crow
lovely green lane on the opposite side of th
o the shore of the Bosphorus.

indeed a change of scene. The Castle o
old, and white, and bare, cut sharply against
sky on the opposite coast; and, as the chan-

* Very pretty.

nel is unusually narrow at this point, I was en
trace more accurately than I had ever done h
the architectural cypher of the Prophet.

Within the walls are clustered about a dozen l
and their inhabitants are bound by an ancient l
to suffer their descendants to marry without t
cincts of the fortress; they are consequently all
related, and no instance has ever been known o
having alighted the injunction.

Immediately before me, on the seaward edge
fine stretch of turf in which the lane terminate
the throng of company that had crowded the g
the valley during the earlier part of the day,
now collected together under the long shadow
double avenue of fine trees fringing the border o
channel, and terminating at the elegant fountain
which I have already made allusion. On one
rose the painted kiosque of the Sultan; and near
stood the little mosque, with its slender minaret sho
ing heavenward, and almost hidden by the leafy branch
of the surrounding trees. On the other a cluster
arabas; while, in the midst, groups of women wo
dotted over the greensward, and gaily-dressed childre
gambolled in their young gracefulness, making th
elastic air buoyant with mirth.

It was a heart-inspiring spectacle! and it wa
beautiful to remark the kindness and good feeling
which pervaded the whole assemblage. I cannot un
derstand how any European who has once contem
plated a scene of this description, can carry away
with him an unfavourable impression of the Turkish
character. I have remarked elsewhere on the happy
freedom from *morgue* which pervades the wealthier
classes of the capital. Neither superciliousness nor
assumption on the part of their more fortunate neigh
bours, withers the enjoyment of the humble and the
laborious; the day of rest and recreation levels all

anks, and suspends all distinctions; and thus each is ecure to find the pleasure which he seeks; for that leasure is in itself of so natural and simple a descrip- ion that it requires no combination of causes to pro- uce it; a bright sky, a balmy atmosphere, a lovely andscape, are all that is necessary to its enjoyment; nd they are ever within the reach of the humblest luring the long summer season; and when to these re superadded the kindly smile and the ready greet- ng which are never withheld in Turkey from those who seek them, it must at once be acknowledged that he Osmanli have made a wise selection, in preferring o the strife and struggle for precedence, and the un- ertainty of ultimate success, which clog the more re- ined and "exclusive" pleasures of Europe, the simple, indly, and ever-enduring enjoyment of nature and niversal good-will.

But I am committing an error in thus applying the word "refined."—Are not such pleasures as those of Turkey infinitely more refined than the elaborated lissipations of the West? Is not the holiness of nature a loftier contemplation than the gilded saloons of the great?—The power to feel and to appreciate the noble gifts of the Creator, eminently more glorious than the talent to discover the finite perfections of the creature? Is not the breeze which sweeps over the healthy hill, or through the blossom-scented valley, more redolent of real sweetness than the perfume-laden halls of luxury?

If these be "barbarous" pleasures, then are the Turks the most barbarous people upon earth, for in these consist their highest enjoyments—In them the minister finds his ready solace for the cares of office, and the labourer for the toils of weary days. But if they be indeed those which should be the best calcu- lated to impart *their* charm to cultivated minds and *unsullied hearts*; then, as I have already ventured to

suggest, the Turks have "chosen the better part," and are authorized to smile, as they ever do, in quiet joy at the coil and care with which we of "civilized" Europe cheat ourselves into the belief that we have far outstripped them in enjoyment, as well as science, and toil throughout a long life in pursuit of a phantom which flits before us like a beckoning spirit, but is ever beyond our grasp.

I was never more struck with this truth than at Guiuk-Suy. I never saw the women of Turkey under a more favourable aspect.—Every heart appeared to be holding holyday; and when, as evening closed, we returned to our caique, and bade adieu to the valley of the Asian Sweet Waters, I felt that I knew them better; that I understood more correctly their social character, than I had hitherto done; and it is an important fact, and one which is well worthy of remark, that the more an European, resolved to cast aside prejudice, and to study the national habits and impulses, comes in contact with the inhabitants of the East, the more he is led to admire the consistency of thought, feeling, and action which influence them; and the high-minded generosity with which they tolerate the jarring and discordant habits and prejudices of their foreign visitors.

I am obliged to concede that no assemblage of European gentlewomen would have welcomed among them two female strangers, as the Turkish ladies, during the day which we spent at Guiuk-Suy, received my friend and myself. The wandering Giaours were everywhere greeted with smiles, urged to linger, invited to partake of every rural collation: treated, in short, as friends, rather than persons seen for the first, and probably, the only time. And such a welcome as this might be secured by every Frank lady, did she consider it worth her while to conciliate the Turkish females; who are always sufficiently rewarded for their courtesy,

a gay smile and a ready acceptance
civility; and yet it is a singular fact,
an ladies resident in Constantinople
ainted with one Osmanli family, and
ed more than once if I was not frigh-
ish women!
s to comment either on the illiberality
or the effects which it is so unfortu-
to produce—Effects which are pain-
whose cause is anything but creditable
rosity or penetration.

CHAPTER VII.

The Reiss Effendi—Devlehäi Hanoum—The
The Pasha—Ceremonious Observances of the
terview—Namik Pasha *versus* Nourri Effen
corations—The Diplomo—Turkish Gallantry—
—The Salemliek—The Garden—Holy Horror—
The Breakfast—A Party in the Harem—Nésib
Yashmac—The Masquerade—Turkish Complime
and the Fruit Merchant—Departure from the P

As I was contemplating a second visit to t
the Reiss Effendi, an invitation reached m
minister himself, who requested me to meet
o'clock the following morning in his harem,
to his departure for the Sublime Porte. I s
cordingly, accompanied by a young Greek
officiated as my interpreter; and at the hour
we landed on the marble terrace, and were
admitted.

I have elsewhere remarked on the early habi
Turkish ladies, and on the present occasion th
already astir, and the slaves hurrying in every d
with sweetmeats and coffee. Devlehäi Hanou
shut into her chamber at prayers, and the do
guarded by a little slave not more than six ye
age; one of seven children recently purchased
a slave-ship, so meagre and miserable, that the
little innocents had evidently been half-starved
their passage from Circassia. One of them had
stolen from the very bosom of its mother, a

val in the harem was immediately provided with a
se.
n the conclusion of her prayer, the beautiful
rgian entered the saloon in which we were awaiting
; and welcomed us most cordially. Early as it
, the minister was already, she told us, engaged
an Ambassadorial Dragoman; and meanwhile
etmeats, water, and coffee were offered to me, of all
ch I gladly partook, and afterwards strolled into
garden among the sweet-scented lemon-trees, to
it my summons to the Pasha.
had taken but two turns in the orangery, when
soft-eyed Conjefem Hanoum advanced smilingly
rds me; and taking me by the hand (a great
k of distinction from a Turkish lady) led me up
s to the apartment to which I have already alluded
aving been honoured by the temporary occupation
he Sultan. When we reached the door, she released
hand, and fell back a few paces, in order that I
ld approach the minister alone.
s the room was very spacious, I had an excellent
ortunity of obtaining a good view of his Excellency,
viously to our entering into conversation; and the
glimpse which I had of him prepossessed me in his
ur. He occupied the upper end of the sofa, and
almost buried amid piles of cushions, near an
a window looking upon the garden of the harem,
se myriad blossoms filled the apartment with
ume.
ad I not known to the contrary, I never should
e supposed him to have been more than sixty years
ge; his eye is still so bright, and his brow so
oth. He wore the *fez* rather flung back; and his
: was of flesh-coloured silk, lined with ermine.
hen I entered, he was busily engaged with his
ouque, which was of the most costly description,
large amber mouth-piece being of the faintest yel-

less, a good man; and perhaps they were not aw
England that he was secretary to the Porte."

I observed that Namik Pasha lent himself wil
to European customs, and made himself accepta
every society into which he entered; and that,
far, he was consequently infinitely better fitted
his successor for the post of Ambassador at a f
Court. The minister looked steadily at me
moment, and then said playfully, "You are
diplomatist yourself. I had heard as much
This is the first time in my life that I ever con
with a Frank female; and since we have fallen
this subject, I should like to ask you one mor
tion before we abandon it. You have now been
months in the country; and were you at lib
select the next Turkish Ambassador to Engla
me frankly whom should you choose?"

I could not forbear smiling in my turn; bu
plied without hesitation: "Rechid Bey, the
minister at Paris. It is such individuals as
who prove to Europe what the Turks already a
what they are capable of becoming—men of fin
and gentlemanlike manners, as well as of sound
ment and high character. Had the Sublime
sent Rechid Bey to London, a year or two a
English would have had a more exalted opinio
diplomacy than they now have."

Little did I imagine, when I thus undisguised
my opinion to the Turkish minister Youssouf
that the firman would be soon despatched whic
tained his transfer to the Court of England;
was not a little amused when I was told, som
afterwards, that the Reiss Effendi, in giving the i
ation of Rechid Bey's arrival in London to a
of mine, added with a quiet smile: "You may
tell your Frank friend that the new *Ilchi** is in E

* Ambassador.

er. She will perhaps be glad to hear that
ie individual whom she would have herself
"

the Turkish Ambassador he digressed to the
England, and assured me that there was no
n monarch for whom the Grand Seignior
ied a more affectionate regard. Indeed, he
o long and so fondly, not only of our good
ı, but of his people also, that had I not
ly known him to be deeply in the Russian
I should have believed him to be as sincere
)-Turk as any individual throughout the Sul-
ninions.

ology for having received me in his morning
ıther than keep me waiting, led us to the
)f costume generally; for I could not offer a
:ply to his politeness than by expressing my
on of that which he wore, and declaring how
considered it preferable to the European frock.
Ie appeared gratified by the assurance, and
s opportunity of desiring Conjefêm Hanoum
out his decorations, in order that I might
the taste and magnificence of the Sultan:
y I never beheld any thing more costly.
rst, which had been delivered to him with his
of Vèzir, was an elaborately mounted medal
inscribed with the cipher of the Sultan, and
: of the wearer, splendidly framed with bril-
But the diploma itself interested me much
t was enclosed in a wrapper of white satin,
with a cord and tassels of gold, and occupied
:nse sheet of stout paper; the name of Allah
the head of the page, and immediately beneath
ı much larger characters, figured the cipher of
an; these were written in gold, as were also
ɜ of the Vèzir himself, which occurred in the
the document, and the word Stamboul at the

perfect a metamorphose that I could sc
myself when I glanced into the mirro
of the whole party was unbounded; and
satisfy them but my adding a *feridjhe* t
presenting myself to the Buyuk Hanoun
minous cloak of dark cloth was accor
over me, and with considerable difficulty
to manage it with some degree of grace
the laughing girl dragged me towards th
of the venerable lady; and entering
announced that a *mussafir*, or guest, de
admitted.

On the invitation of its occupant, I
making the *femina** with all the ceremony
to continue the deceit; and it was not u
kissed the hand of the Buyuk Hanoum,
upright before her, that she detected the mas
but when she did so, I was overwhelmed with
tions and entreaties; I was beautiful; resis
should turn the head of every True Believer i
boul. Why did I desire to return to Englan
there was not a Pasha in Constantinople who
not consider me 'the light of the harem?' w
become a Turk? and a thousand other ejacu
of like import.

When the sensation had partially subsided,
turned to the saloon; and as the *yashmac* had
viously been arranged in the manner in which
worn by the ladies of the Serai, I took a sec
lesson, to enable me to put it on in the more gen
fashion; and I then amused myself for five minutes
watching the manœuvres of a slave who was purcha
ing some water-melons from a fruit caique. Nothi
could be more ludicrous: the great gate of the hare
was ajar, and one of the caiquejhes stood on th

* The Eastern salutation.

terrace, and took the fruit from his companion; after which he advanced towards the entrance, and rolled it through the open space on to the marble floor beyond: the slave running after each as it appeared, and grasping it with both hands as she held it to her ear, to ascertain if it would give out the splashing sound without which it is of no value—laying aside those that she approved, and rolling back the others with a velocity that gave her the appearance of being engaged at a game of bowls with the Greeks on the terrace; talking, moreover, all the time with an earnestness worthy of the occasion.

I loitered away another hour with my amiable hostesses, and then, looking at my watch, I urged a previous engagement, in order to overcome their kindly entreaties that I would spend the remainder of the day with them; and having bade adieu to the Buyuk Hanoum and her numerous guests, and promised to pay her another visit before I left Constantinople, I once more quitted the hospitable halls of the Reiss Effendi; carrying away with me the liveliest feelings of gratitude for all the attentions which I had experienced from every member of his family.

CHAPTER VIII.

Imperial Gratitude—The Freed Woman—A Female Hussein the Watchmaker—Golden Dreams—Arabas bajhes—Maternal Regrets—A Matrimonial Excursi cult Position—The Sèkèljhes—A Young Husband—T —The Officer of the Guard—The Emir's Daughter—Fi —Ballad Singing—A Salutation—Moonlight—Rejecte dresses—Ruse de Guerre—The Arrest—A Lover's Dete Munificence of the Seraskier Pasha.

THE Sultan occasionally recompenses the faithful s vices of the slaves of the Imperial Serai by giving the their liberty, accompanied by a donation sufficiently liberal to enable them to establish themselves in an eligible manner. On a late occasion, he emancipated an elderly woman, who had secured his favour by her unremitted attentions to one of his wives during a pro- tracted illness; and, being light of heart at the mo- ment, and perhaps curious to learn how she would act on such an emergency, he desired her to put on her *yashmac*, and to take a boat to Stamboul, where she was to hire an araba, and drive slowly about the city, until she saw an individual whom she desired for a hus- band; when, if he could be identified, she should be his wife within the week.

His Imperial Highness was obeyed on the instant. One of the palace caïques rowed to the door of the harem; and the freed slave, accompanied by an aged companion, stepped in, and was rapidly conveyed to Stamboul. On landing at "the Gate of the Garden,"

he walked into the house of Hussein the watchmaker, with whose wife she was acquainted; and while the stripling son of the worthy Musselmaun was despatched for an araba, she took her place upon the sofa, and partook of the grape-jelly and coffee which were handed to her by her officious hostess. These were succeeded by the *kadeun-chibouque*; and she had not flung out half a dozen volumes of smoke from her nostrils, ere all the harem of Hussein the watchmaker knew that she was free, and about to choose a helpmate from among the tradesmen of the city.

At every "Mashallàh!" uttered by her auditors, the self-gratulation of the visitor increased; and she, who a day previously had not wasted a thought on matrimony, smoked on in silence, absorbed in dreams of tenderness and ambition.

The araba was, of course, a full hour ere it appeared, for the arabajhe had to smoke his *narjhïlè*, or water-pipe; and the arabajhe's assistant had to repair the damages which the last day's journey had done to the harness, and to wash away the mud that yet clung about the wheels; and after that, there were comments to be made upon the horses, as they were slowly attached to the vehicle; and on the unusual circumstance of a Turkish woman hiring a carriage, without previously bargaining with the owner for the sum to be paid.

But Yusuf, the son of Hussein, who found more amusement in watching the slow motions of the arabajhe than in keeping guard over his father's chronometers, put an end to the astonishment of the party by informing them that the person who had engaged the vehicle was a slave of the Imperial Seraï; a piece of information which tended considerably to expedite the preparations of the coachman, and to excite the curiosity of his companions.

The female Cœlebs, meanwhile, had emptied three chibouques; and as the ashes of each were deposited in

the little brass dish that
and fairer visions rose b
sion that she drew from
which bound her waist
contained her tobacco, a
indulged in a more flat
speculation.

To render the circumsta
European reader, it may b
are few tradesmen in Stam
marry an Imperial slave, wh
personal infirmities, as she i
golden apology for all her de
astonishing that the wife of
membered that her son Yus
that, consequently, she could
visitor; and the more sincerel
maker did not stand high in th
"accursed Giaours," as the a
hesitate to declare, selling, f
manded by the Turkish artisan
watches that were as true as the
during as the Koràn.

At length the araba drew up
windows; and the two friends, re
shuffled across the matted floor of
by the compliments and *teminas* o
tresses and cushions were arrange
the hands of Hussein himself; a
having been re-arranged, they wer
over the rough pavement of the city

They first bent their course to th
the confidant pointed out many
middle aged Musselmaun to the a
companion; but the freed woman o
shoulders, uttered a contemptuous "
turned away her eyes.

The stream of life flowed on beside their path. Turbans of green, of white, and of yellow, passed along; but none of the wearers found favour in the sight of the husband-seeking fair one. Hours were wasted in vain; she was as far removed from a decision as when she stepped into the caïque at Beglierbey, and the patience of her companion was worn threadbare; she became silent, sullen, and sleepy—and still the araba groaned and drawled along the narrow streets. Human nature could endure no more, and after having been jolted out of a quiet slumber three several times, the confidant digressed from weariness to expostulation.

"May the Prophet receive me into paradise. Is there not a true believer in Stamboul worthy to become the husband of a woman whose hair is grey; and who has long ceased to pour out the scented sherbet in the garden of roses? Had it been my *kismet* * to come hunting through the thoroughfares of the city on the same errand, I should have chosen long ago."

The freed woman only replied by desiring the arabajhe to drive to the quarter inhabited by the *sèkèljhes*, or sweetmeat-makers; the finest race of men in Constantinople. When they entered it, she began to look about her with more earnestness than she had hitherto exhibited; but even here she was in no haste to come to a decision; and although she passed many a stately Musselmaun whom she would not have refused in the brightest days of her youth, she "made no sign" until she arrived opposite to the shop of a manufacturer of *alva*, a sweet composition much esteemed in the East, where half a dozen youths, bare-legged, and with their shirt sleeves rolled up to their shoulders, were employed in kneading the paste, previously to its being put into the oven.

* Fate.

"*Inshellàh*, I trust in God! He is here," said the lady, as she stopped the carriage: "See you not that tall stripling, with arms like the blossom of the seringa, and eyes as black as the dye of Khoresan!"

"He who is looking towards us!" exclaimed her companion in astonishment. "The Prophet have pity on him! Why, he is young enough to be your son!"

The answer of the freed woman was an angry pull at her *yashmac*, as she drew more closely together the folds of her *feridjhe*. The young and handsome sèkèljhe was summoned to the side of the araba, and found to improve upon acquaintance; upon which he was informed of the happiness that awaited him, and received the tidings with true Turkish philosophy. In a few days the bride removed into a comfortable harem, of which the ground-floor was a handsome shop, fitted up with a select stock of sweetmeats at the expense of the Sultan; and those who desire to see one of the principal actors in this little comedy, need only enter the gaily-painted establishment at the left-hand corner of the principal street leading into the Atmeidan to form an acquaintance with Suleiman the sèkèljhe.

Another occurrence, equally authentic, and still more recent, is deserving of record, as being peculiarly characteristic of the rapid progress of enlightenment and liberality. An Emir of the city, celebrated for his sanctity and rigid observance of all the laws of Mahomet, had a fair daughter who sometimes indulged, in the solitude of the harem, in softer dreams than those of her austere father. Unfortunately for the state priest, a guard-house, tenanted by a dozen armed men under the command of an officer whose personal merit exceeded his years, was established not a hundred yards from his house; and, as the youthful commander paced slowly to and fro the street to dispel the ennui, it so chanced that he generally terminated his walk beneath the windows of the Emir's harem.

The first time that the pretty
eeped through her lattice at the han
ood rushed to her brow, and her
ough she knew not wherefore. The
lonely life, for she was motherless,
s a stern man, who had no sympath
tes; and, satisfied with providing
cessities, never troubled himself furt
means extraordinary, therefore, th
idleness with watching the motions
that, by dint of observing him, she
d that he was rapidly becoming an o
to her heart.

hen followed all the manœuvres of
ty, who has no means of communicat
sex, save those which her woman-
o invent. A shower of lavender buds,
arrow opening of the lattice upon his
ted the attention of the gallant Mos
harem; nor was it diminished by a
the whitest little hands in the world,
ed the aperture, waved a graceful
uld be meant only for himself.
youth knew, however, that he was
us game, and he consequently move
making any answering gesture; and
in the other direction, rather than en
nces which had been made to him.
accordingly walked as far as the slipp
merchant; but this uninteresting ind
hideously, and smoked tobacco of so
that it half suffocated the more fast
Of course there was no persevering in
er, and he was consequently compell
original line of march; being the
ced to do so by importunate memor

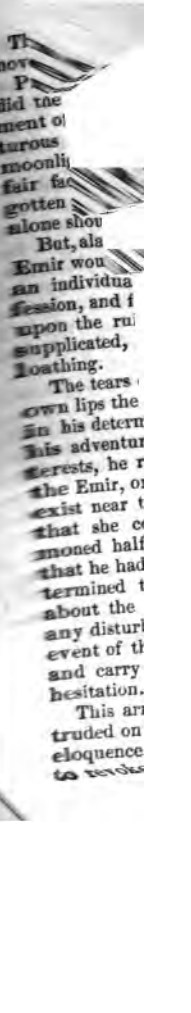
* Jasmin.

nd which had showered down upo
ted lavender buds; although he di
to suspect that such was the case
be addressed from the dangerous
ecome more deeply involved in the
ed himself by singing one of Sultan
in his best style.

ly for the success of this laudable in-
rial poet has written none but love
ng soldier chanced inadvertently to
ich an anxious suitor calls upon his
him the beauty that he has hitherto
dreams; he invokes the moon from
hat veil it; the hidden leaf from the
here it is folded; and loses himself
subject of the concealed loveliness
to look.

the imprisoned Yasumi Hanoum
elieved that the Prophet's paradise
her; no wonder that on the morrow
lack as midnight fell at the feet of
e paced his accustomed beat; and
at the white hand and the dark tress
e dreams of the gallant Moslem, and
gination.

g his evening chibouque seated on a
the door of the guard-room, when,
up, he perceived a female rapidly
the direction of the Emir's house.
remarkable in such a circumstance,
great thoroughfare, and many wo-
it during the day: and yet his at-
tibly attracted to the stranger; and
is side, their eyes met: "*Shekur*
o God! I may speak to you at last;"
oft voice; "Perhaps I should not tell
, but who can war against fate!"



The deep dark eyes were averted; the light figure moved away; he had looked upon the Emir's daughter!

Prudence was at an end; and many a midnight hour did the young soldier spend beneath the latticed casement of the enamoured beauty. At length her adventurous hand raised the envious jalousie; and as the moonlight fell bright upon her, the lover looked on the fair face which was destined never more to be forgotten; and from that moment he vowed that death alone should make him relinquish his suit.

But, alas! what hope could be indulged that a saintly Emir would bestow his daughter upon a soldier; upon an individual doubly obnoxious both from his profession, and from the fact that it had grown to power upon the ruin of the Janissaries? The youth asked, supplicated, and was answered with contempt and loathing.

The tears of the fair girl when she learned from his own lips the failure of his suit, only strengthened him in his determination of success; and having confided his adventure to a friend who was devoted to his interests, he resolved either to compel the consent of the Emir, or to incur the penalty of exile, rather than exist near the woman whom he loved without a hope that she could be his. Accordingly, having summoned half a dozen of his men, he informed them that he had a quarrel with the Emir which he was determined to decide; and instructed them to loiter about the house of the priest, and should they hear any disturbance, to enter as if by accident, and in the event of the Emir desiring them to seize their officer, and carry them before the Seraskier, to obey without hesitation.

This arrangement made, the lover once more intruded on the seclusion of the priest, and with all the eloquence inspired by sincere affection besought him *to revoke his resolution*, and to give him his daughter.

Emir only added insult to refusal;
uitor, casting back the injuries which
him, sprang towards the door that
th the harem, and vowed that he
ray, and carry off his bride despite
Stamboul. The affrighted father,
acrilege and murder, clapped his
ple of stout slaves entered, to whom
o seize the madman, and put him
or was young and vigorous, and he
down one of his antagonists, when
eiving, from the clamour that was
nat the critical moment had arrived,
and demanded the occasion of the

athless with terror, and trembling
inted to the lover, as he exclaimed,
! To the Seraskier! *Inshallâh!* I

y obeyed. The soldiers surrounded
and hurried him off, followed by
; and in ten minutes more the whole
the Seraskier.

ment had arrived; and the heart of
at high with a thousand conflicting
nir told his tale, and implored ven-
screant who had dared to beard him
roof, and to attempt a violation of
e was re-assured by the tone of the
ned towards him, when the angry
speaking, and bade him explain his
nheard-of violence.

" said the lover, " may your days be
ide nothing from you. I love this
r; and I have asked her of him for a
on her heart, no matter where nor
ıy hours be numbered

your ears with falsehood. He has spurned me with insult because I am a soldier. He has declared the uniform of the glorious Sultan (may his shadow ever lie long upon the earth!) to be the brand of obloquy and disgrace; and had I not loved the girl more than perhaps it is altogether seemly for a true believer to love a woman, I should have given him back scorn for scorn. But I could not do this without regret; and it is through my own agency that I now stand before your Excellency, to plead my cause, and to teach this hoary priest that the soldier of the Sultan is not to be taunted to his teeth, even by a white-turbaned Emir. I could not force myself into your presence, noble Pasha, to talk to you of a woman; and thus I played the part of a madman, in order that I might be dragged hither as a culprit, and learn from your own lips whether the crescent upon my breast is to make me an outcast from society."

"Did he indeed demand your daughter for his wife?" asked the Seraskier, as he removed the chibouque from his lips, and glanced towards the priest. He was answered doggedly in the affirmative.

"Take heed, then, Emir," pursued the Pasha: "this looks like disaffection to his Highness (may his end be glorious!) See that the girl become the wife of this young man ere many days roll over your head, or the holy turban that you wear shall not protect you. What! is it for you, and such as you, to sow divisions among the subjects of the most gracious Sultan? Look to this ere it be too late."

And as the baffled Emir turned away, the Seraskier bade one of his officers take steps to secure to the victorious suitor the rank of captain; and to pay to him five thousand piastres from his (the Pasha's) own purse, as a marriage present.

The step was a bold one, for it was the first instance *in which an Emir's* daughter had ever been permitted

to become the wife of a soldier. A thousand long existing prejudices had hitherto rendered such a alliance impossible; and it was a great stroke of policy to break down the strong barrier of habit and fanaticism, and to create a bond of union between two jarring and jealous portions of the population.

CHAPTER IX.

Turkish Madhouses—Surveillance of Sultan Mahmoud—Self-Elected Saints—Lunatic Establishment of Solimanié—The Mad Father—The Apostate—The Sultan's Juggler—The Slave Market—Tcharchi.

No traveller who can string his nerves to the trial; or rather who will not suffer himself to be scared by the idea of a Turkish madhouse, should fail while at Constantinople, to visit the *Timerhazé*, or Lunatic Establishment, dependent on the mosque of Solimanié. He will encounter nothing to disgust, and comparatively little to distress him; for all is cleanly, quiet, and almost cheerful. For myself, morbidly sensitive on such occasions, I shrank from the task which I was nevertheless resolved to achieve, until the eleventh hour; and my only feeling when I looked around me

> "Where laughter is not mirth, nor thought the mind,
> Nor words a language, nor even men mankind,"

in the madhouse of Solimanié, was one of intense relief, on finding that my own diseased fancy had so far outrun the reality.

It is, however, to the universal surveillance of Sultan Mahmoud that the unfortunates who tenant the building are indebted for the only comforts which they are still capable of enjoying; for but a few years ago they were unapproachable to the stranger, from the filthy and neglected state of both their cells and their

girl who was leaning upon my arm. When he caught sight of her he started from his recumbent posture, and almost shrieked out his gladness as he exclaimed, "My child! my child! they told me that you had abandoned me, but I let them say on without a murmur, for I knew that you only tarried; and you are come at last. Why do you weep? I see you, and I am happy. I have not been alone; look here—" and he thrust his hand into his breast, and drew forth a dove which was nestling there; "I have held this upon my heart, and, as I slept, I dreamt that it was you."

After a moment's silence he resumed: "I would give you this trembling bird, for you are my child, and I love you, but it will not abandon me. It is my friend, my playfellow, my child when you are away. It will not leave me, though I am mad. And yet, why do they tell you that I am mad? Is it not so—do I not know you? Am I not your father? Is it because I am sorrowful that they have told you this?" And again the pale face was bowed down; and one heavy sob which seemed to rise from the very depths of a crushed spirit terminated the sentence. We hurried on; it was profanation to make a spectacle of such an agony, mindless though it was.

Nor was the next individual with whom we came in contact less painfully interesting. Strikingly handsome, and not above five-and-thirty years of age, he had already passed four miserably in the madhouse of Solimanië. An Armenian by birth, and a Catholic by faith, he had been induced to embrace Mahomedanism, but he had paid with his reason the price of his apostacy; and this one memory haunted him in his wretched lunacy. As we paused before the grating of his cell, he bowed his head upon his breast, and murmured out, "*In nomine Patri, et Filius, et Spiritus Sanctus. Amen.*"

His look was fastened upon my father; and some

saint and long-effaced image seemed to rise before him, for he smiled sadly, and extended towards him his white and wasted hand; nor could any other of the party succeed in diverting his attention. Twice, thrice, the same words were uttered, and always in an accent of the most thrilling anguish. Surely his sin will be expiated on earth, and forgiven at the last day!

Some were merry, and exhausted themselves in song and jest; and some with a latent leaven of worldliness, asked alms, and laughed out their soulless joy as the coins which we flung to them rang on the stone-work of the window. The Juggler of Sultan Selim; he who had taught the great ones of the land to believe him gifted with a power more than human; he who had raised the laughter of amusement, and the exclamation of wonder; whose very presence had awakened mirth and merriment—he, too, was here, caged and chained, the mad prisoner of three-and-thirty weary years!—the palest, the saddest, and the most silent of the whole miserable company. His beard fell to his girdle, his matted locks half concealed his haggard countenance, his hands were clasped upon his breast, and he did not turn his head as we approached him.

From the madhouse we proceeded to the Slave Market; a square court, three of whose sides are built round with low stone rooms, or cells, beyond which projects a wooden peristyle. There is always a painful association connected with the idea of slavery, and an insurmountable disgust excited by the spectacle of money given in exchange for human beings; but beyond this (and assuredly this is enough) there is nothing either to distress or to disgust in the slave-market of Constantinople. No wanton cruelty, no idle insult is permitted: the slaves, in many instances, select their own purchaser from among the bidders; and they know that when once received into a Turkish

cs never make either
ffering, or human degrad
nce escaped them, calcul
ngs who were crouching
nshine; they made their o
ietly; and left the marke
they had purchased, wi
y, or unnecessary interfer
hen, escaping from this
lting even under the mo
l ourselves in the Tchareh
ing temptations of the E
of tissues and trinkets.

had been a trying one, and I rejoiced to be enabled to divert my thoughts from the scenes through which we had passed. A thousand brilliant baubles were spread out before us; a thousand harangues replete with hyperbole were exhausted on us; all was bustle and excitement; and I forgot for a while the weeping father and the spirit-stricken apostate of Solimanié.

The Castle of Europe — The Guard — Military Scruples — Blood — The Janissaries' T room — The Bow-string — Fri The Grand Armoury — Flour — A Dalleme — The Barrack sian Kiosque — Courts and C ginental School — A C ming ous Passage — Turkish Terro tunate Escape.

HAVING obtained an ord the ministers, my father a morning to visit the Fort called by the Franks the C

I have already stated c first *pied-à-terre* of the coast; and that the entire of his name, was erected of the fortress is much gr struction would lead you the sea; and it is altogeth terest.

When our caïque touche the Traitor's Gate, our dra authority of the officer on stating on his low wicker st hou e, which is built upon at the foot of the exterior surprise on ascertaining o

y removed the chibouque from his lips, as he
he impossibility of his admitting us into a
l within which no Frank had hitherto set
he first European Fortress of the Prophet;
of the Janissaries; the —— I know not
he might have added, for, in the midst of
gue, he suddenly remembered that one of
plicants for admission on the present occa-
ıot only a Frank, but, worse still, a woman;
s just beginning to reason upon the fact, when
ıan stepped in with the announcement of our

uples were silenced at once, and he immedi-
ry civilly sent a corporal and a soldier of the
o point out to us the different localities;
nost intelligent men they proved to be, who,
en two years on the castle guard, were per-
ıpetent to do the melancholy honours of the

aitor's Gate is the only seaward entrance to
ıs; and, when we had stooped to pass its low,
, we found ourselves in a large court, having
ight hand one of the four principal towers;
sely that which has hitherto served as a state
persons of distinction.

lower cell of this tower, which contains
ınges of dungeons (none of them, however,
can), is a stone tunnel, descending deep into
and beside its mouth is placed a block of
gainst which the victim knelt to receive the
ke; when the severed head, and the gory
ıat accompanied it, fell into the tunnel, and
ied by the current far beyond the walls of the
the body, thus rendered irrecognisable, being
ıs thrown into the channel. A deep ditch
ear the entrance of this tower, which opens
inner court; and, as we ascended a steep as-

elivity, and passed beside a ruined mosque,
the moat to the foundation of a second and lo
square in form, and castellated on the summi
guished by the fearful appellation of the "
Blood!" The ditch opens immediately benea
archway, excavated in the foundation of the
and its use is similar to that of the tunnel in t
prison, being intended to convey away to the
save the bodies of the criminals executed wit
walls, who were invariably the Aghas, or chiefs
Janissaries, whom it would not have been safe t
dishonoured in the eyes of that formidable body
was customary to insult the remains of the less d
guished of their comrades.

In this ditch one of the soldiers informed us
near four hundred cases of ammunition had been
covered buried beneath the soil, for the private use
the Janissaries, in the event of their requiring su
an auxiliary during any popular commotion; and
was singular enough that the deposit was revealed
by the very individual who informed us of it, and wh
pointed out the spot where his pickaxe struck against
the cover of one of the chests, when employed with a
fatigue party to cleanse the moat from its accumulated
filth.

Hence we ascended to the Janissaries' Tower, the
principal object of our curiosity. Built on the highest
point of land within the walls, even from the base of
this tower you command one of the noblest views in
the world; having on one hand the whole stretch of the
channel to the opening of the Sea of Marmora, and
on the other the entrance to the Black Sea; the most
sublime *coup d'œil* in the Bosphorus.

Here two additional attendants with lights were added
the party; and having first visited a recess, or cell, in
masonry of the tower, which we entered by a low,
row archway, that had been lately discovered, we

the secret magazine of the Janissaries,
ad built in upwards of six hundred cases
nd we then commenced our survey of the

it the whole Tower, which is of great
contains seven ranges of cells, all of them
y, there were but two *cachots forcés*, or
ns; every apartment being furnished with
ated aperture for the admission of air and
small marble cistern for containing water.
explore one of the two, but was withheld
rs, who assured me that, since the destruc-
Janissaries, no one had ventured to enter
that they might be, and probably were,
here one false step would plunge me head-
uction.

ned, I desisted reluctantly from my pur-
sooth to say, we were sufficiently sur-
horrors to be enabled to dispense with
less. Our next point was the guard-
xtensive apartment, with a floor boarded
with narrow planks, forming a lattice-
gh which the guard could both see and
isoner beneath; and roofed in the same
aving traced the tower nearly to its sum-
icended, and passing onward a few paces
we found ourselves in a compartment of
way that connects the towers throughout
; and which was furnished with large
ways on either side. Here, within a re-
n old Roman bow, of such strength that
rm can bend it; and to this, as we were
he cord was attached used in strangling
ned Janissaries. I confess that I thrilled
ight of this instrument of torture, than at
he refinement of cruelty, which, in a locality

replete with gloom, had selected such a spot for the work of death.

Hither was the victim dragged from his twilight cell. Here, where the fresh breeze of heaven came lovingly to his forehead, quivering among the broad leaves of the wild fig-trees; and dancing on the sun-lighted waters. Hither, where the bright day-beam shed over the world a light which to him was mockery! What had he to do with the fresh breeze and the genial beam? His knee was upon the earth, and the cord was about his neck. One gaze, one long, wild, withering gaze, while his executioners were busied with the fatal noose; one sigh, the deep concentrated inspiration of despair; a shriek, a struggle; the last grappling of the strong man with his murderers, and all was over; the cord was transferred from the throat to the feet of the victim; and they who were lately his comrades and his friends, seized the extremity of the fatal rope, and, dragging after them the yet quivering body, it was thus hurried ignominiously down the rough and steep stone stair which traverses the fortress, ere it arrived at the Traitor's Gate.

But I will pursue the revolting image no further. As the mangled body was hurled into the sea, the long gun which occupies an embrasure near the entrance of the fortress was fired, to announce to the authorities at Constantinople that justice had been done upon the guilty.

Early morning and noon were the periods usually selected for these executions; and few are the individuals who have been long resident in Turkey, who can fail to remember the dismal report of the solitary gun as it came booming over the Bosphorus!

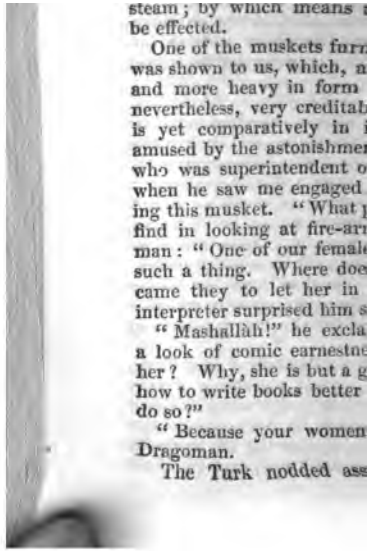
The few houses built within the walls of the fortress are surrounded by cheerful gardens, and are kept in tolerable repair. As we left the castle, we were politely

ccosted by the officer on guard, who inquired whether ve desired to visit the fortress on the opposite coast, vhich was formerly used as a prison for the Bostangis, or Imperial Body Guard; the order with which we were furnished sufficing for both. But I had become so heart-sick among the dungeons of the Janissaries, that I prevailed on my father to decline the proposal; and we accordingly re-embarked, and proceeded to the Grand Armoury at Dolma Batchè.

Here again we were obliged to avail ourselves of our order, no female ever having been hitherto admitted within the gates of the establishment; but it was merely the delay of a moment, and, having passed the portal, we stood within a spacious court forming the centre of the quadrangle, surrounded by the entrances of the several workshops, and furnished with an immense marble reservoir containing water for the supply of the artificers.

The greatest activity and order prevails throughout the whole establishment. Fifteen hundred men are constantly employed within the walls; and their wages vary from one to two shillings a day, according to the difficulty of the work, and their ability to execute it creditably. No distinction either of creed or nation operates against the reception of an artificer; Turks, Greeks, Armenians, Bulgarians, and Jews are alike eligible, if capable of performing their allotted duties; but the most difficult and finished branches of the different departments are almost universally confided to Armenian workmen, who are the best artificers of the East.

The nominal head of the establishment is a Turk, but he does not interfere beyond making a weekly survey to ascertain that all is progressing satisfactorily; while his deputy, who is an Armenian, enters into the detail of the labour, makes the contracts for timber and metal, pays the workmen, and performs



steam; by which means
be effected.

One of the muskets furn
was shown to us, which, n
and more heavy in form
nevertheless, very creditab
is yet comparatively in
amused by the astonishme
who was superintendent o
when he saw me engaged
ing this musket. "What
find in looking at fire-ar
man: "One of our femal
such a thing. Where doe
came they to let her in
interpreter surprised him s

"Mashallàh!" he excla
a look of comic earnestn
her? Why, she is but a g
how to write books better
do so?"

"Because your women
Dragoman.

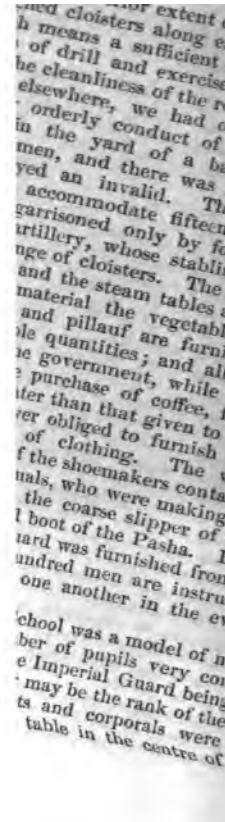
The Turk nodded ass

enough; they cannot learn of the walls. The Franks see and hear, and travel over land and sea; and that is why they know more than we who remain at home, and ask no questions."

I give this little dialogue, because it strikes me as being very characteristic. How often have I been reminded by the Turkish women, that if I had learned many things of which they were ignorant, I had taken a great deal of trouble to acquire them, while they had remained comfortably at home without care or fatigue.

From the armoury we crossed over to the barracks of the Imperial guard at Scutari, where my appearance created as much astonishment among the troops as though I had come to take the command of the garrison; and once more I was stopped by the officer on guard; but, as Achmet Pasha had prepared the commandant for our visit, he was immediately summoned by the Dragoman, and received us with the greatest politeness.

This magnificent barrack is nearly quadrangular, the centre of the fourth side being occupied by low workshops, and a noble gateway opening upon an exercise ground, at whose extremity on the edge of the rock overhanging the sea stands the Persian kiosque of the Sultan. Nothing can be conceived more grand than the view from this graceful summer pavilion, whence you command the port, the channel, the city of Constantinople, Pera, Galata, and every object of interest and beauty in the neighbourhood of the capital; the picturesque Seraï Bournou; and far, far away, the Sea of Marmora, and the dark mountains of Asia. The prevalence of northerly winds had prevented any vessel from entering the Golden Horn during the three preceding weeks, and a little fleet of about thirty merchant-men were lying at anchor under the very windows of the kiosque, giving the last touch of loveliness to the scene spread out before us.



id smaller apartment stood a handsome set of New-
n's globes. Of the imitative talent of the Turks I
ave already spoken; and on this occasion we were
hown a map of Iceland, etched by a corporal of the
uard, in as good style as any pen and ink drawing
hat I ever saw from the college at Sandhurst.

The arms, as I have already remarked to be uni-
versal with the Turkish troops, were in the most
admirable order, and the stores containing clothing
were well filled, and very neatly arranged. We de-
clined visiting the hospital, as three recent cases of
plague had occurred there; added to which we dis-
covered certain threatenings in the sky which denoted
a coming storm; and, as the passage from Scutari to
Topp-hannè is, though comparatively short, extremely
dangerous in the event of a sudden tempest, we spent
half an hour with the commandant in his apartment,
where we partook of some exquisite sherbet, made
from the juice of the green lemon; and hurried thence
to the pier, laden with a basket of the delicious grapes
and melons of Asia. But we had already lingered too
long: the wind was blowing briskly from the Black
Sea, and the distant shores were veiled in dense and
heavy vapour.

We had just reached the Maiden's Tower when the
gust caught us. Of all the environs of the Bosphorus
this is the most dangerous, for the current runs madly
out into the Sea of Marmora; and the wind, released
from the Asian mountains which hem it in to the
point of Scutari, is suddenly set free in all its violence.
Hence it arises that, in the immediate neighbourhood
of the Maiden's Tower, more caïques are wrecked
during the year than in the whole of the channel; and
there we were, every wave dashing angrily against the
side of the frail boat, and pouring over us its foaming
waters; the wind driving us down the current, and
the *Turkish* boatmen scarcely able to ejaculate their

"Mashallàhs!" and "Inshallàhs!" from the t
which made their teeth chatter in their heads.

It was a frightful moment. At one instant we
way; at the next we were carried back by the fo
the current; we could not guess how the affair
terminate; but meanwhile the venerable old cai
who pulled the after-oars, amid all his alarm,
to comfort me: "Tell her," he said perpetually
dragoman; "tell her that there is no danger; s
woman, and the fear may kill her. My heart
and I can scarcely pull, for my hand trembles,
breath fails; but console her; tell her that we wi
be across the channel; that I will put her ashor
where—anywhere; tell her what you will, for
woman, and I pity her."

But, grateful as I was for his consideration
not require comfort; I had already escaped
many dangers at sea, that I never for a mome
templated drowning on the present occasion;
took some credit to myself for upholding the
of my sex for courage in the eyes of the kind-
old Turkish caïquejhe. With considerable d
we at length made the pier at Topp-hannè,
voyage homeward being perfectly out of the q
we ascended the steep hill to Pera, wet and
we were; and passed the night under the r
worthy and hospitable Greek friend, listenin
wild gusts which swept down the channel,
gratulating ourselves on our escape from a d
unexpected as it was imminent.

CHAPTER XI.

ague—Spread of the Pestilence—The Greek Victim—Self-tion—Death of the Plague-smitten—The Widow's Walk igue Encampments—The Infected Family—The Greek nd her Lover—Non-Conductors—Plague-Perpetuators—ires—Melancholy Concomitants of the Pestilence—Care-ss of the Turks—The Pasha of Broussa—Rashness of oorer Classes—Universality of the Disease in the Capital.

r one who has even heard of Constantinople is that it is a city of plague and fires. Of the I have already spoken, although slightly; for singular fact, that, although several extensive grations occurred during our residence in the not only in the capital but in its environs, it was our fortune to witness one.

the still more frightful visitation of the plague, d not, perhaps, make mention at a more fitting nt than the present (the commencement of Sep-r) when, contrary to the prognostics of the *soi-* conversant in such matters, it has broken out enewed violence in every direction. The Impe-alace of Beglierbey is deserted in consequence having been visited by the pestilence. The en Towers" have become a plague-hospital for reeks. We presented ourselves with an order mittance at the celebrated Seraglio at the Point, ound that here the scourge had preceded us, and he gates were closed. Even Therapia, seated on

the edge of the shore, and open
from the Black Sea, is adding
times; and we were received by a
opposite end of the sofa on cu
even that reluctantly), from a
prove to be plague-conductors, a
stated, that even this direful visit
to bring out some of the noblest
frail humanity is susceptible. I
doned a feeling of absorbing selfish
the hour when he has before him t
of the most frightful of all deaths
short month which has elapsed
deepened, examples have not been
utter absence of selfishness—that sel
security of others—which gives to
victim almost the character of martyrd

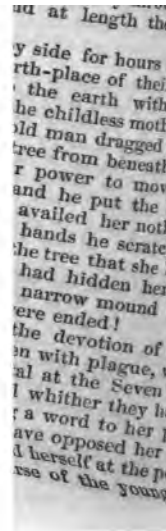
Only a day or two since, a poor G
of Therapia was suddenly attacked wit
thinking that he recognised the sym
malady, he immediately proceeded to hi
stopping ere he touched the threshold,
wife, who, astonished at seeing him at
an hour, and struck by the change in his
was about to approach him, when he d
stand back; and then calmly telling her
unwell, though he knew not from what
that he was unwilling during a time of pla
the risk of infecting his family, or of con
his house, he desired her to throw him
pelisse. "If it be a mere passing sickness,"
as he prepared to depart, "it will only e
night in the open air; if it be the plague,
at least save our few articles of clothing,
few comforts of the cottage. Recommend m
Virgin and St. Roch."

And thus he left his home; and wandered, weak and art-sick, to the mountains. He felt that the brand s on him; and he went to die alone, he knew not w—whether as a wild and frantic maniac, gathering ength from the fever which would turn his blood fire, and howling out his anguish to the winds of idnight, without one kind voice to comfort, or one nd hand to guide him, until at length he dropped wn to die upon the damp earth; or, as a shivering d palsied wretch, fainting from thirst, and quivering th sickness, to gaze hour after hour from his bed withered leaves, or parched-up turf, upon the blue ight sky and the myriad stars, until they went out e by one as his sight failed, and his pulse ebbed——

On the morrow his wife hastened to the mountains ith food, in search of her husband. She had not ught herself to believe that the plague had touched m, and she feared that he might suffer from hunger. he led one of her children by the hand—his favourite ild—and they were long before they found him; for though the young clear voice of the boy shouting t his name was borne far away upon the elastic air the mountain, there was no answer to the call: las! there could be none; the father lay cold and iff in a gully of the rock—the plague-smitten had eased to suffer!

The anguish of the unfortunate woman may be conceived; in her first agony she sprang towards the ody, but the shriek of her child recalled her to a ense of her peril, and the fate that she would entail pon her little ones. The struggle was long and itter; and at length she turned away with the weeping boy, and returned into the village to proclaim her widowhood.

I have already mentioned the fact of my having on me occasion inadvertently ridden into the midst of a *plague-encampment*. Such occurrences are, however,



who had been received there the previous
ain did the governor, imagining from her
the calm and collected manner in which she
self up an almost certain victim to the pesti-
she was not aware of her danger, endeavour
her from her project. She was immoveable;
imately permitted to approach the bedside
g sufferer.
ar, not a murmur escaped her, as she took
beside her pillow, and entered upon her
ffice. In the paroxysms of his madness, as
was feeding upon his strength, and grap-
brain, he spoke of her fondly; he talked
stretched forth his arms to clasp her; and
ust her from him as he yelled out his agony,
ibs writhed beneath the torture of the pass-

bore it all unshrinkingly; and even amid
she felt a thrill of joy as she discovered
and madness had alike failed to blot her
n his memory. But there were moments
than these, in which reason resumed her
sway, and the devoted girl was pressed to
. bosom of her fated lover; and in these,
ney were, she felt that she was overpaid

struggle even of youth and strength against
baneful of all diseases could not last for
patient expired in the arms of his devoted
nd, as he breathed his last, bequeathed to
his dying smile and the foul poison which
g through his veins. She saw him laid in
grave; and then she turned away with the
that she, too, was plague-smitten!
not return to her home; but she stood a
rom one of the companions of her youth,
ier bear to her aged parents her blessing

and her prayers; and this done she fled to the mountains, and sought out a solitary spot wherein to die. None knew how long she lingered, for she was never seen again in life; but her body was found a few days afterwards beneath a ledge of earth, in a kneeling position, as though the last spasm had been a short one.

She who had sacrificed herself to smooth the pillow of him whom she had loved, perished alone miserably, in the wild solitude of the Aetna hills, and her almost Roman virtue has met with no other record than the brief one in which I have been tempted to perpetuate the memory of her devotion and her fate.

It seems as though men apprehended contagion from the very name of the plague, for they have adopted terms that render its repetition needless. Should you inquire for a family which has become compromised, you are told that "they are gone to the mountains," and you understand at once that they are infected, and when numbers are daily dying about you, in reply to your desire to learn the amount of the evil, you are answered that there are so many, or so many accidents."

Every respectable house, and every public establishment, has in its court, or its outer hall, a small wooden section, precisely like a sentry-box raised on rollers, which you are obliged to enter during a period of smoking, before you are admitted into the interior of the house; and where you stand upon a latticed floor, while aromatic herbs are burnt beneath, whose dense and heavy vapour soon envelopes you in a thick cloud, which is said to prevent contagion.

Every competent authority declares the disease to be propagated by contact; and it is singular to see with which every individual passing along the public streets avoids all collision with his fellow-

The lower orders of Turks are the greatest
n the plague, in consequence of the filthy
bits of the men employed as street-porters
rs; their law only requiring them to wash
and feet before entering their mosques, or
eir prayers; while I have good authority
that this class of individuals purchase an
ent of dark and coarse material, which
day and night without removing it, until it
es.

e a plague-conductor, it is not, conse-
rprising that great numbers of these per-
variably carried off during the year; and
ause doubtlessly accounts for the excessive
mong the Jews, who frequently increase the
e evil by possessing themselves of the gar-
e plague-victims, which they buy secretly
latives; reckless, in the event of a good
the fatal consequences which may ensue
mselves and to others.

appear to be an excess of madness almost
but it is, nevertheless, an incontrovertible

ot whether it be a common occurrence for
haunt the environs of the city during the
of plague, but it is certain that we never
il its commencement; and that before we
ere to be met with in numbers, in the very
he shipping, preying upon the offal that
ung into the port, or winging their heavy
the mountains, as though scenting their re-
quet.

to me, something frightful in the terror
, in a season of virulent pestilence, each in-
oids all human contact, and looks upon his
as vehicles of destruction. In the shrink-
tives from each other, and the unwonted

ave no influence on the plague. It rages
ow-storm as virulently as beneath the
ns of summer. Dict does not affect it.
rter, living upon black bread, and fruit
nature, and the Effendi, whose tray is
nary delicacies, are alike liable to be
s origin and its cure are both unknown.
suspended sword, ever ready to do
; and none can foretell the moment
may come. It chases the haughty Soli
lace, and the labourer from his hut.
nd thickly-peopled streets of the city,
he majestic vessels that ride the blue
sphorus. And there is not a sojourner
o can forget the first occasion on which
f the meaning of the gloom that hung
rows, and the mysterious murmur that
he crowd on a new outbreak of the
nswered by some passer-by—"It is
an be no doubt that at the present time
nce has spread farther and faster than
rwise have done from the extreme scarcity
ay almost say, want of water in the capital.
lasses, whose means render them unable
s necessary of life at an exorbitant price
ividuals who established an extempor-
by freighting their caïques with water
villages on the channel, and vending it
eing necessitated to make use of foul
ools for the purpose of preparing their
spense almost entirely with a beverage
to excess by both sexes.
nd tanks of the nearest hamlets failed
extended their voyages

The September of 18

crowd
rush
alcoh
aversion
remained
upon the
On the
and the fan
volume des
gurlhu, still
from some su
ascertain, the
of water from
this noble fo
the wants of
waste its stream
I shall not e
busy human be
thronged the mo
from our residence
lower quarter of
but this solitary
still held out; a
lengthening the
affixed, and the
to raise them, th
be perceived.
Children of
longer, as here
household toil

s and their demands became comparatively
vagant. Men watched the clouds in vain; the
set in a blaze of gold and purple; and morning
e in blushes from behind the Asian mountains;
noonday sky was blue and bright—not a vapour
ed across its beauty, and no rain fell. Women
wded about the fountains, in the vain hope that
h moment the exhausted spring might well out
sh. Children wept, and asked vainly for their
ustomed draught; the marble basins of the city
ained empty, and the bright sunbeams played
on the smooth surface of the glittering stone.

On the Asian shore the waters had not yet failed; nd the famous fountain of Seutari, fed by a mighty olume descending from the dusky mountain of Bulgurlhu, still poured forth its flashing stream; but, rom some superstition, whose nature I was unable to ascertain, the authorities did not permit the transfer of water from the Asiatic to the European shore; and this noble fountain, which would have supplied all the wants of the city, was suffered to flow on, and waste its stream in the channel.

I shall not easily forget the constant succession of busy human beings, who, from day-dawn to dusk, thronged the mouth of a well not a hundred paces from our residence at Yenikeuy. Every cistern in the lower quarter of the village had become exhausted; but this solitary well, fed from a mountain source, still held out; and it was only by the necessity of lengthening the ropes to which the buckets were affixed, and the consequent increase of labour required to raise them, that any diminution of the water could be perceived.

Children of ten or twelve years of age could no longer, as heretofore, accomplish this portion of the household toil: nor would they, even had their *strength* sufficed to the effort, have been able to make

it: for as the demand for water increased on all sides, the battle was truly to the strong at the village well. Men who met as friends, and greeted each other kindly as they approached it, strove and struggled for precedence, until they at length parted in wrath, and frequently with blows; while the owners of the neighbouring cottages, to whose exclusive use this spring had hitherto been considered sacred, murmured in vain at the intrusion on their privileges, and were fain to strive and struggle like the strangers.

The reason adduced by the Greeks for the abundance of water in this well, was the sanctity conferred on it by the priesthood, at the close of the previous vintage; when they had made a solemn procession to its mouth, and flung in a handful of small silver coins, contributed for the purpose by the poorer inhabitants of the village, a small vase of holy water, and a pinch of consecrated salt!

While the drought was at its height, a community of Turning Dervishes made a pilgrimage to the Sweet Waters; where the Barbyses, always a very inconsiderable stream, had shrunk to half its accustomed volume; and there, having previously prostrated themselves in prayer, they performed their evolutions round the principal cistern of the valley; and at a certain point of the ceremony flung into the air small vessels of red clay, fresh from the potter's hands, while, as they fell back, they besought that every empty tank might overflow, and every goblet be filled.

The spectacle was a very striking one; and it was followed by the observance of another yet more touching. At dusk, the village children, walking two and two, and each carrying a bunch of wild flowers, drew near the cistern in their turn; and sang, to one of the thrilling melodies of the country, a hymn of supplication; while at the conclusion of each stanza,

they scattered a portion of the blossoms over the tered fragments of the vases flung into the bas the Dervishes.

Nothing could be more affecting! Man, shri under a consciousness of his unworthiness, pu prayer into the mouth of innocent infancy; as th he trusted to the supplication uttered by pure lip guileless hearts, when he dared not hope for i through his own agency. Every evening durin drought, that "linked chain" of childhood re to the same spot, and raised the same song of en to an all-powerful Creator; and the echoes o valley flung back the infant voices of the choir a swelled upon the wind of evening with a patho affected me to tears. It was only on the day prec that of our departure from Constantinople tha prayer was answered; and, as the light vapour fell upon the parched and yawning earth, my th instantly reverted to the infant choristers of the Waters! whose artless hymn may be freely tran as follows:—

HYMN OF THE TURKISH CHILDREN.

Allah! Father! hear us;
Our souls are faint and weak:
A cloud is on our mother's brow,
And a tear upon her cheek.
We fain would chase that cloud away,
And dry that sadd'ning tear;
For this it is to-night we pray—
Allah! Father! hear.

We seek the cooling fountain,
Alas! we seek in vain;
The cloud that crowns the mountain
Melts not away in vain.
The stream is shrunk which through our plain
Once glided bright and clear;
Oh! ope the secret springs again—
Allah! Father! hear.

elect; a fair, dove-eyed girl, who was sitting upon the sofa with her hand clasped in that of one of her young companions.

On one side of the room were displayed the bridal dresses; and on the other were collected all the smaller articles of her toilette. It was a confusion of blonde, and gauze, and flowers, and diamonds; satin slippers, embroidered handkerchiefs, and cachemire shawls; and I really pitied the owner of all this finery when I remarked how much she was harassed and oppressed by the commotion which surrounded her, and the crowd of company that came and went in one endless stream.

Sweetmeats and coffee having been served, every article of the bridal costume was exhibited separately to the guests, commented on, and replaced. The shawls and jewels were examined with the most earnest attention, for these gauds are the glory of the Greek women, who, in speaking of a married acquaintance, seldom tell you that she is happy from being the wife of a man of amiability and high principle; but invariably reply to your inquiry by the assurance that she is a most fortunate person, to whom her husband has given six or seven cachemires: or that she is, poor thing! very much to be pitied, having been thrown away upon an individual who can only afford to allow her a couple of shawls! To such a height, indeed, do the Greek ladies carry their love for this article of dress, and their desire to display it, that they will suffocate in a cachemire during the hottest day in summer, and even wear it in a ball-room!

When all the bridal paraphernalia had been exhibited, the mother of the bride entered the room, carrying in one hand a filigreed silver essence bottle, and in the other a censer of the same material, in which were burning aloes, myrrh, and perfumed woods. Making the tour of the apartment, she flung the per-

fume over each individual, varying her address according to the circumstances of the guests. To the unmarried she accompanied the action by saying, "May your own bridal follow!"—while to the matrons of the party she said, "May you also see the bridal of your children!"

When the old lady had withdrawn, all the more youthful of the visitors formed a group in the centre of the floor. One laughing girl held a pair of diminutive scales; and another was laden with the glittering skeins of flat gold thread, of which were to be woven the singular head-dress to which I have already made allusion. The gallantry of the bridegroom had induced him to send forty drachms of this expensive gew-gaw to his fair mistress, instead of ten; the largest quantity that the laws of the Greek Church allow to be worn; and the first care of the party was, consequently, to separate the skeins, and to weigh out the portion destined for the bride. When this had been accomplished, a score of us were employed at once. The threads were drawn out singly, in lengths of about three yards, and were then woven together at the end into a sort of coronet, whence they fell in a golden shower to the floor.

When this pretty and amusing occupation was over, we took our leave, each embracing the bride in turn, who still retained her place upon the sofa; and every individual, as she passed the bridal gear, flinging over it a handful of small silver coin.

I was summoned on the morrow at an early hour for all the religious ceremonies of the Greeks are performed at most unseasonable times. Even their Sunday mass, when the poorer portions of the population after having toiled throughout the previous six days might be excused a little sluggishness, commences at daybreak; and no one who has spent four months in a Greek village, as we did, can have failed to be awakened at dawn by the rattling together of the two

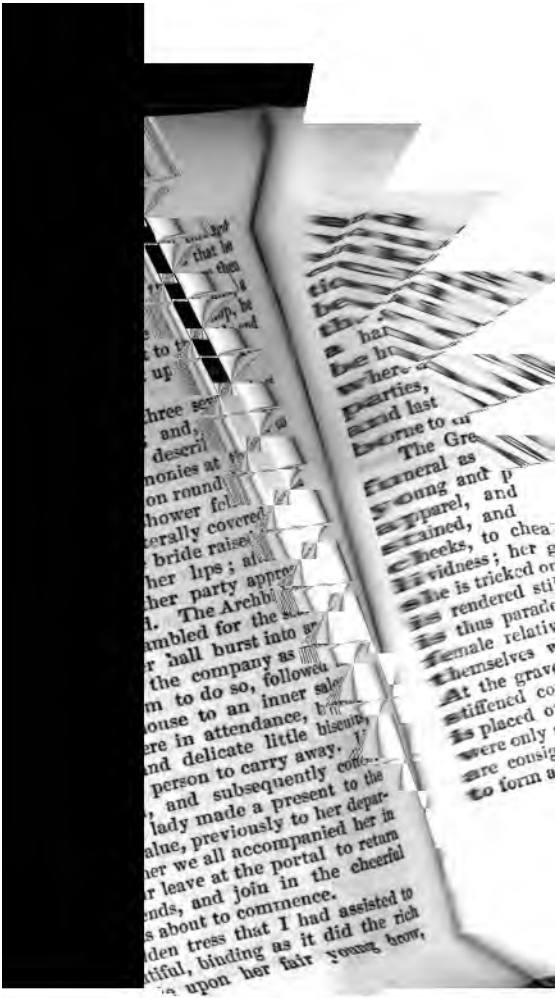
stockings, the smartest of
gs frequently hanging to
eed must be the female
no is not the happy possess
s!
have meanwhile, forgotte
to be married at the ho
ours; and who, on my arri
expected. The centre o
red by a Turkey carpet,
lesk, overlaid by a gold-e
and supporting a Bible and
e whole bright with the
at had been scattered over
use was to officiate as "G
office somewhat similar

maid; and she was even at that early hour sparkling with jewels.

At length the sounds of music announced the arrival of the marriage train; and we hastened to a window to watch for their approach. The procession was an interesting one. The musicians were succeeded by the bridegroom elect, walking between his own father and the father of his bride; the fair girl followed, accompanied by a couple of her young companions; and the two mothers, attended by "troops of friends," closed the train.

They were met at the threshold by the Archbishop of Nournaudkeüy and a party of priests, who immediately commenced chanting the marriage service; and, as they ascended the stairs, showers of money were flung over them from above.

In five minutes, the spacious saloon was filled to suffocation; the young couple were placed upon the edge of the carpet; the nuptial crowns, formed of flowers, ribbons, and gold thread, were deposited on the reading-desk; and the rector of the parish, in a robe of brocaded yellow satin fringed with silver, began a prayer, that was caught up at intervals by the choral boys, and repeated in a wild chant. At the conclusion of this prayer, which was of considerable length, the attendant priests flung over the Archbishop his gorgeous vestments of violet satin, embroidered with gold, and girdled with tissue; and he advanced to the reading-desk, and took thence the two brilliant diamond rings, with which he made the cross three times, on the forehead, lips, and breast of the contracting parties; and then placed them in the hand of the "godmother," who, putting one upon the finger of each, continued to hold them there while the Prelate read a portion of the Gospel: after which she changed them three times, leaving them ultimately in the possession of their proper owners. This done, the Archbishop put the hand of



falling to her feet; and her whole costume
e been eminently graceful, had she not been
nder the heat and weight of the eternal
. The nuptial crowns which I have men-
about a foot in height, and shaped like a
when they were removed from the heads of
couple, they were carefully enveloped in
chief of coloured gauze, and borne away to
p in the chapel of the bridegroom's house;
y will remain until the death of either of the
hen the deceased is crowned for the second
me, in the open coffin in which he or she is
he grave.

reeks make almost as much toilette for a
s for a marriage. Where the deceased is
d pretty, she is decked out in her gayest
and not unfrequently has her eyebrows
and a quantity of rouge spread over her
o cheat death for a few brief hours of his
; her gloved hands are carefully displayed;
ked out in jewels; and this frightful mockery
ed still more revolting by the fact that she
araded through the streets, followed by her
elatives, who weep, and shriek, and bewail
es with a transient violence truly national.
rave side all the finery is stripped from the
corpse; the friends carry it away; a cover
over the coffin; and the poor remains, that
a few instants previously so lavishly adorned,
gned to the earth of which they are so soon
part.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Fèz Manufactory—Singular Scene—A Turk a
Pretty Girls — Progress of Turkish Industry -
Effendi—Process of Manufactures—Omer Effen
Arabs—Avanis Aga, the Armenian—The Fraud I
The Imperial Apartments—Departure for the Se
—The Outer Court—The Orta Kapoussi—The Pest
tar of the Ulèmas—The Garden of Delight—The
Theodosius—Arrival of the Sultan—Ancient Gre
tions — Confused Inscription — The Diamond —
Sultan Selim.

No traveller should leave Constantinople wit
ing a visit to the Fez Manufactory of Eyo
all the caps for the Sultan's armies are m
The building, which is entirely modern, and
adapted to its purpose, stands in the port,
palace of Azmè Sultane, on the site of a
Imperial residence. It is under the control
Lufti Effendi, late Governor of Smyrna, a
known probity and talent:* and its immedia
intendence has been intrusted to Mustapha
whose ready courtesy to strangers enables
travellers to form an accurate idea of the
progress of the establishment.

After a delightful row from Galata, we l
the celebrated pier of Eyoub; and, accompa

* I have again to record a plague-victim in this di
man; the intelligence of whose death has reached us
return to England.

l friend of Mustapha Effendi, proceeded to the
ctory, which we entered by the women's door.
passed the threshold a most curious scene
ed itself. About five hundred females were
d together in a vast hall, awaiting the delivery
wool which they were to knit; and a more
dinary group could not perhaps be found in
ld.

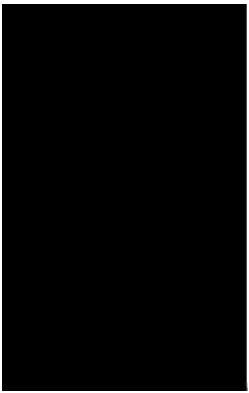
e was the Turkess with her *yashmac* folded
over her face, and her dark *feridjhe* falling to
ement: the Greek woman, with her large tur-
d braided hair, covered loosely with a scarf of
nslin, her gay-coloured dress, and large shawl;
nenian, with her dark bright eyes flashing from
the jealous screen of her carefully-arranged
d her red slipper peeping out under the long
ng cloak; the Jewess, muffled in a coarse linen
nd standing a little apart, as though she feared
d by more immediate contact; and among the
some of the loveliest girls imaginable.

he moment of our arrival, Mustapha Effendi
prayers; and we accordingly seated ourselves
it him in an inner apartment, well carpeted,
upied by half a dozen clerks, who were busily
ed in recording the quantity of wool delivered
applicant: their seats were divided from the
's hall by a partition about breast high; and I
ed that the prettiest girls were always those
accounts were the most tedious.

he other side of this spacious office was a wool
where a score of individuals were busily em-
in weighing and delivering out the wool; and
so active and so earnest in their occupation,
e most sceptical European would have been
led to admit, when looking on them, that the
no longer the supine and spiritless individual
e has been so long considered.

The next process is the most inconvenient, a perhaps the most simple of the whole. As knitted, the caps are washed with cold water an but there being no rush of water sufficiently st the immediate vicinity of the capital, they are to be sent to Smit, distant about ten leagues, they are scoured and dried, and ultimately re to Eyoub, in order to be completed. Each fe undergoes three different operations of clippin pressing; and at the termination of the third h longer the slightest appearance of knitted wool, b the effect of a fine close cloth. The next proce that of dyeing the cap a rich deep crimson; herein existed a difficulty which has been but la overcome, and of which I shall give an account w I have sketched the whole routine of the manufact

Having been immersed during several hours in la coppers constantly stirred, and kept upon the boil, t caps are flung into a marble trough filled with runni water, where they are trodden by a couple of men, a afterwards given to the blockers, who stretch th over earthen moulds to enable them to take a go shape. They are subsequently removed to the dryi oom, where they are kept in a perpetual current ir until all the damp is removed; and thence deliver p to the head workmen, who raise the nap of t ool with the head of the bullrush, and then clip ay with huge shears; precisely as cloth is dressed ngland. Pressing follows, and the fez is ultimat ried to the marker, who works into the crown t vate cypher of the manufacture, and affixes t rt cord of crimson which is to secure the *flock* el of purple silk, with its whimsical appendage paper. The last operation is that of sewing on t ls; and packing the caps into parcels containi a dozen each, stamped with the Imperial seal. e *whole* process is admirably conducted.



was owing to
which was unfa

a trial was m
and the at
was about to be al
the good
disguised a clever
Aga, as a Turk,
Pelis
Aga,
suspicion, seem
which it so much
and, abandoni
he had walked as the atte
immediately that he had
either in obedience to th

egent, or from an excess of patriotism, they had been ractising ever since their arrival: he set himself to ork in secret, and, with the water of Smit, dyed vo caps, which, having been dried, he presented to mer Effendi, who was unable to distinguish them om those of Tunis.

Delighted at the successful issue of his experiment, mer Effendi summoned the Arabs to his presence, nd showed them the fez; when, instantly suspecting ie masquerade that had betrayed them, they simul- aneously turned towards the Armenian, and, throwing heir turbans on the ground, and tearing their hair, hey cried out, "Yaccoup! Yaccoup!" (Jacob! Jacob!)

The superintendent having dismissed them, after using them to be liberally remunerated for the time hich they had spent at Constantinople, sent them ck to Tunis; while Avanis Aga, elected head dyer the Imperial manufactory of Eyoub, now enjoys high honour of deciding on the exact tint to be n by Mahmoud the Powerful, the "Light of the ," and "Shadow of the Universe."

ifteen thousand caps a month are produced at the ic of Eyoub, and they are said to equal those of s. The finest Russian and Spanish wools are oyed, and no expense is spared in order to render worthy of the distinguished patronage with which ultan has honoured them. The Imperial apart- at the manufactory are elegantly fitted up, and ntly spacious to accommodate a numerous suite; the building faces the arsenal, his Highness is ent visitor to the establishment of Omer Effendi, ie sometimes passes several consecutive hours.

we had made the tour of the manufactory, we l to the apartment of Mustapha Effendi, where ok of coffee and sherbet; and after expressing re gratification we had experienced in our *e took* our leave; and once more nestling

ourselve
to the S
household
prevalen
with wh
strangers
The fir
convey an
an excres
taining o
houses, an
church of
On a line
which are
the *Chechi*
buildings.
Passing al
Orta Kapou
two towers
Dgillat Odos
out to us, w
death or exil
pression, "ar
Above the
forfeited heads
shine. And h
pestle and mor
were destroyed,
by which the co
to suffer sooner
"second Daniel
not legally suffe
sword, the bulle
as they believed,
were other spirits
pestle and mortar
in which the ur

were literally pounded to death! Whether these ordinary and revolting instruments of torture are in existence, I know not; but it is certain that are no longer exhibited as objects of curiosity.

ithin the middle gate commences the splendour of Seraï. Elaborate gilding and curious arabesques profusely lavished on its inner side; whence an ue of beeches leads to the third door, opening into iosque-crowded "Garden of Delight," wherein er Sultans were wont to receive the European assadors.

yond the vast and golden-latticed building for- y appropriated to this purpose, the eye is bewil- l by the confusion of many-shaped and glittering ions scattered on all sides; and I, unfortunately, not time to examine them at my leisure, as I was sted, previously to my survey, to visit one of the rs of the household, who possessed the power of ducing me into the harem. Thither we accord- went; and found the courteous Effendi smoking hibouque in a sort of garden parlour, overlooking nclosure in which stands the column of Theodosius.

soon as we were seated, I requested permission to h this interesting monument, which he at first re- l from a dread of being compromised by my en- e into the Seraï; but after a little reluctance he lied, and I hastily availed myself of his politeness.

was it for me that I did so, for I had scarcely re- d my pencils, when an attendant, breathless with , entered the room, exclaiming, "Hide the lady the Franks! The Sultan has just arrived in the d court!"

l was instantly confusion. We made a hasty re- by another gate; and passing along to the water's , traced upon the mouldering walls several inscrip- in ancient Greek. One ran thus: "Theodosius, by *the Grace* of Christ;" another, "The Illus-

trious Theodosius, t
Christ;" while numb
sentences still remain,

Altogether, I broug
a mere confused impre
of domes, and kiosque
and gleaming lattices.
the Gate of Constantine
me on which a boy, beir
in play with a party of cl
up a brilliant, weighing be
carats; since which perioc
been closed against the pu
past the golden gate of the
self in reveries of all the gui
which had made the celebra
theme of story, and an obj
the curious. I seemed to see
unfortunate Selim, the Sarda
from the walls in mockery;
his murderers as they cast h
rebels! there is your Sultan
will!"

This was the most recent
Bournou, and perhaps one of
glanced around me, and remem
works had outlived him, I forgo
ment in commiserating the fate
sensual and supine though he wa
ties both of the heart and the hea
arrested the weapons of his assassin
the affections of his adherents.

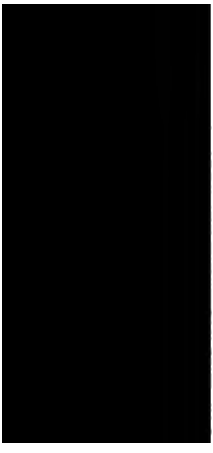
CHAPTER XIV.

ition of the Eastern Jews—Parallel between the Jews and the Levant—Cruelty of the Turkish Children to Singular Custom—Religious Strictness of the Jews—Administration—The House of Naim Zornana of Gaume of the Jewish Women—Hebrew Hospitality.

saw the curse denounced against the chilael more fully brought to bear than in the ere it may be truly said that "their hand is very man, and every man's hand against where they are considered rather as a link nimals and human beings, than as men of the same attributes, warmed by the same d by the same breeze, subject to the same nd impulses, and joys, and sorrows, as their tals.

a subdued and spiritless expression about n Jew, of which the comparatively tolerant can picture to himself no possible idea as looked upon it. The Israelite of Europe liar physiognomy; a crouching, self-humstrained manner; but there is "a lurking is eye," which at once convinces you that hope of gain rather than the fear of inh teaches him that over-acted subserviency

y detect the internal chuckle of self-gratulas; the stealthy glance of calculating cau-



then be doubled.

It is impossible to ex
in which the Osmanli h
veriest Turkish urchin
fallen nation on his path
to the degradation of th
Israel. Nor dare the o
even upon this puny en
fices to raise up against

I remember, on the o
Kahaitchana, seeing a T
of age, approach a grou
fixing upon one whose
her protection from ins
as to deprive her of con
earth. As I sprang fo
unfortunate, I was hel
quaintance, a man of
lieved, divested of such
me not agitate, or tro

ortly before our departure from Constanti-
r father and myself were ascending the hill
hannè, on our way to Pera, followed by a
l of sixteen or seventeen years of age, heavily
a linen drapery, which he was hawking for
out mid-way of the rise we passed a house
ose doorstep a party of Turkish boys were
hemselves; but they no sooner saw the Jew,
quietly pursuing his way in the centre of the
en they simultaneously quitted the sport with
y were engaged, and, springing upon the
, they commenced beating him, and endea-
drag from his back the merchandize with
as laden.
or of the lad was frightful. The street was,
filthy as to entail ruin upon every thing
the ground; and, as he struggled against
the blows that were showered upon him
and the efforts which were made to de-
ods, the big tears rolled from his eyes.
test was soon terminated by [illegible]
a very short [illegible]

A common custom with both the Turks and the Greeks when they pass a caique on the water [illegible] with Jews, is to raise one hand, and with outstretched fingers to count their number, which is supposed to bring some heavy misfortune on the last of the party. The Jews, who have firm faith in the effect of the spell, writhe with agony as they remark the color, and never fail collectively to yell forth: "May the curse fall back upon yourself!" After which the caiques dart onward, each upon its own course; the one gay with the subdued mirth of the [illegible], and the other freighted with new and [illegible] bitterness.

The Jews of the East, like their brethren of Europe, are the people of the country who spend their Sabbath the most strictly; and who are the most conscientious in the exercise of their religious observances, and the most obedient to its professors. Even accustomed as they are to habits of chicane and extortion, the Jews are seldom guilty of wilful error in their contributions to the national chest, for relieving the wants of the poorer portion of their people; which is supplied from a tax levied on the provisions consumed by each family, thus falling the most heavily on the wealthiest of their community.

The Levantine Jews individually live in the hope, and with the intention, of terminating their lives at Jerusalem; and, as this speculation is an expensive one, their energies are quickened by the necessity it entails of making a gradual provision for so extensive an outlay; and instances have been frequent in which the father of a family, feeling that from his advanced age and his failing powers, he was no longer able to benefit his children by his personal exertions, has resigned to his sons all his worldly wealth, save the sum necessary to defray the charges of his pilgrimage; and

metimes alone, and sometimes accompanied by his fe, has bidden a last adieu to his children, and parted to die in the chosen city.

In order not to be ruined by any political convulon, or beggared by any stretch of despotic power, the ws have a law regulating the division of their proerty into three equal proportions. One consists of ating capital; another is secured in jewels; and the ird is retained in the coin of the country; an arrangeent which proved highly beneficial to that portion of eir nation that was compelled from ecclesiastical rsecution to evacuate Portugal and Spain, at the stigation of Torquemada and other influential memers of the clergy: and to establish themselves in onstantinople, where, through the long series of years hich has succeeded, they have retained the language the countries whence they were banished, with such nacity, that most of their women are altogether ignoant of the Turkish.

The Constantinopolitan Jews, who wear a dingy oloured white cap, surrounded by a cotton shawl of small brown pattern, are *raïahs*, or vassals to the orte, and are also distinguishable by their dark purple oots and black slippers; while those who cover their eads with a *calpac*, somewhat similar to that of the reeks, but surmounted by a scarlet rosette at the mmit of the crown, are either under foreign protecon, or subjects of another country trading temporarily the Levant, and enjoying all the prerogatives of that ortion of the community whose costume they adopt; ese invariably wear yellow boots, and slippers similar those of the Turks. The *raïahs*, as well as the rangers, are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Rabin; the difference of their position acting only on eir external relations, and not being recognised by eir own rulers.

The Levantine Jews formerly visited the infidelity

of their women with death; but the present Sultan has forbidden to them the exercise of so severe a law, and the crime is now punished by exile. They marry their sons at fifteen, and their daughters at ten years of age; and if a father desires to chastise his child, he is obliged to obtain the concurrence of the seven deputy counsellors, charged with the religious administration of the nation; who refer the matter to the Grand Rabbin; whose order, in its turn, must, ere it can be made available, receive the sanction of the Porte. The same rule is observed with individuals charged with any crime, save that these are imprisoned during the deliberation.

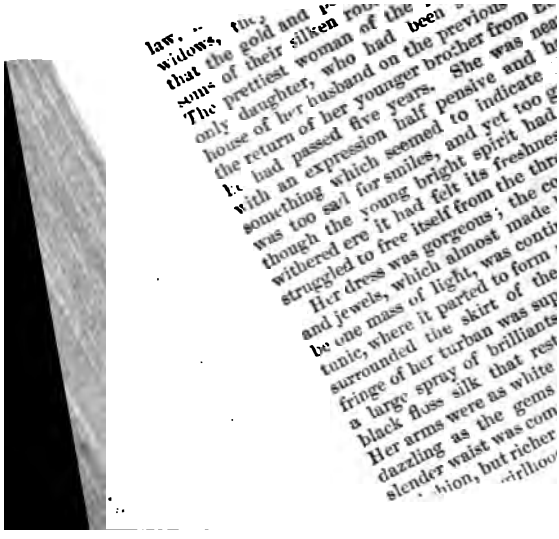
Having expressed to a friend my desire to visit one of the principal Jewish families, in order to see the costume of their women, of which I had heard a great deal; he accompanied my father and myself to the house of Naim Zornana, with whom he had held some commercial relations. Nothing could be more miserable than the approach to his dwelling; for, in order to reach it, we were compelled to traverse the entire length of the Jews' quarter at Galata; nor did the appearance of the house itself, as we crossed a miserable yard into which it opened, tend to give us a very favourable idea of the establishment. The window-shutters were swinging in the wind upon their rusty hinges; the wooden balustrade of a dilapidated terrace, whose latticed roof was overgrown by a magnificent vine, was mouldering to decay; the path to the house was choked with rubbish; and the timber of which it was built was blackened both by time and fire.

The first flight of stairs that we ascended, together with the rooms on the ground floor, were quite in keeping with the exterior of the dwelling: but when we reached the foot of the second, we appeared to have been suddenly acted upon by magic; the steps were neatly matted, the walls were dazzlingly white, and at

entrance of the vast *salle* into which the several
rtments opened, lay a handsome Persian carpet.
re we were met by the females of the family, and
ted with the lowliest of all Eastern salutations, ere
were conducted to the scrupulously clean, and
dsomely arranged, saloon appropriated to the re-
tion of visitors.

Never, during my residence in the East, had I
ked on any costume which equalled in richness and,
ir head-dresses excepted, in elegance, the dress of
se Jewish females. It was a scene of the Arabian
hts in action; and for a few moments I was lost in
iration. The mistress of the house stood imme-
ely in front of the sofa on which we were seated:
was a tall stately woman, who looked not as though
belonged to a bowed and rejected race; she had
eagle eye, the prominent nose, and the high pale
head of her nation, with a glance as fiery as it was
).

uch as I have described her, she was attired in a
dress of white silk, confined a little above the hips
a broad girdle of wrought gold, clasped with gems;
h the girdle and the clasps being between five and
inches in width. Above this robe she wore a
ose of dove-coloured cachemire, lined and overlaid
h the most costly sables, and worth several hun-
d pounds; the sleeves were large and loose, and fell
k to reveal the magnificent bracelets which en-
sled her arms, and the jewelled rings that flashed
on her fingers. Her turban, of the usual enormous
s worn by all Jewish women, was formed of the
inted muslin handkerchief of the country, but so
vered with gems that its pattern was undistinguish-
le; while, from beneath it, a deep fringe of pearls,
pped with emeralds of immense size and value,
over her brow, down each side of her face, and
mately upon her shoulders.



he difference of head-dress; and was a most elaborate affair. She least fifty braids, each secured at pearls and ribbon; while her little terally covered with jewelled rings; hose of the elder females simply broidered slippers.

l hospitality of the whole family y appeared delighted at the unusual ceiving Christians, who appreciated ons; and when I promised, in com- earnest request, that I would repeat intention to fail in the pledge.

CHAPTER XV.

Hospitality of the Armenians—An Impromptu Visit—The Bride—Costly Costume—Turkish Taste—Kind Reception—Domestic Etiquette of the Schismatic Armenians — Armenian Sarah—The National Characteristics.

I CANNOT, perhaps, give a better idea of the hospitable feeling of the Armenians, than by relating a little adventure which happened to a friend and myself, a few weeks previously to my departure from the East.

We left home with the intention of paying a visit to the amiable sisters of Tingler-Oglou, at their residence on the Bosphorus; and, after a short walk, rang at a great gate which we imagined to be that of their grounds. The summons was immediately answered; and a lovely girl of about sixteen having followed the servant to the gate to ascertain the identity of the visitors, replied to our inquiry for the ladies we sought, by an invitation to enter. Supposing, from the extreme splendour of her dress, and the perfect ease of her manner, that she was some relative of the family whom we had not hitherto met, we at once obeyed her bidding, and found ourselves on a terrace overshadowed by lime trees, on which a party of ladies, entirely unknown to us, were wiling away the time, surrounded by a crowd of attendants.

Both the place and the persons being strange, we drew back, and apologised for our unintentional in-

privacy of the family; when an elderly
dy the mistress of the house, motioned
selves on the cushions beside her, telling
d been long desirous of making our ac-
d was rejoiced that her daughter-in-law
wit enough to profit by the opportunity
ur mistake. Of course we availed our-
courtesy; and the more readily as we im-
overed that we were in the grounds of a
,* who was the neighbour of Tingier-
who had lately built a magnificent
h lay below the terrace on the edge
el; and married the beautiful girl who
s, smiling at the success of her harmless

bride of a week; and, as I had never
opportunity of seeing the costume of a
l Armenian female, I looked at her with
uriosity. Her hair, which was perfectly
tremely luxuriant, hung in a number of
upon her shoulders, being bound back
by a handkerchief of gold gauze, deeply
ickly covered with diamonds.
er eyebrows was affixed an ornament
small brilliants, and forming the word
Armenian characters. Her chemisette
rape, fringed with silver; and her an-
sea silk, worked and edged with gold,
her waist with a costly cachemire. She
of figured silk, of a pale blue; thread
l slippers of pink kid. Her rings and
e a little fortune in themselves; and,
n how to adjust her costume with the
of a Turkish woman, she would have
; but the Armenian lady is as inferior

* Banker.

in elegance to the fair Osmanli, as the Turk to the European. They wear the same description of dress, and employ the same materials, but they may, nevertheless, be distinguished at a glance, from the same manner of its adjustment. The one is almost a caricature of the other. I remained long enough in the East to think the *yashmac* the most coquettish and becoming of all head-dresses; but to be either the one or the other it must be arranged by the fair fingers of a gentle Turk; for when put on as the Armenians wear it, it is the greatest disfigurement in the world. The same may be said of the whole of their costume. The inmate of the Turkish harem is as willow-like and graceful as a swan; the Armenian lady, on the contrary, overloads herself with cloth and finery; and is, consequently, fettered in her movements.

Nothing could be more courteous than our reception by the family with which we had become so unexpectedly acquainted. The most delicate sweetmeats and the finest Mocha coffee were served to us by the fair hands of the bride herself, which were deeply stained with henna; and, as I have before remarked, blazing with jewels.

When the refreshments were removed, we made a tour of the grounds; and were laden by our new friends with tuberoses, orange-blossoms, and green lemons. There was not a courtesy that they did not show us; not a flattering epithet which they did not lavish on us; and, as they led us by the hand from terrace to terrace, they pointed with intuitive taste every fine point of view as it opened upon them; lingered beneath each little garden pavilion wreathed with parasites, where the passion-flower blossomed beside the creeping rose, and the violet nestled at the root of the tiger lily; playfully sprinkled us with the limpid waters of each sparkling fountain, whose marble

in looked like a glistening lotus in the sunshine;
ted us in the painted kiosques which overhung the
ter; and selected for us the most tempting produce
the orangeries.

When we at length reluctantly took our leave, the
tty bride kissed our hands with a graceful humility,
fectly charming; and we were followed to the gate
entreaties that we would renew our visit. To these
plied by an invitation which was instantly accepted;
l on the morrow my room was a blaze of jewels and
d embroidery.

The etiquette of a Schismatic Armenian family is
initely more rigid than that observed by the Turks.
th the latter, the daughter or daughter-in-law, when
the harem, can seat herself unbidden; although not,
ced, where she pleases, for her proper place is
gned to her, and she is not permitted to intrude
those of her elders. But the young Armenian
e, who may have brought to her husband the
vry of a million of piastres, and the fair girl who is
heiress of her father's house, must alike remain
ekly standing, with folded hands and patient brow,
il the lady-mother gives the gracious signal which
horizes her to occupy a corner of the sofa or the
hion.

The Armenian Catholics do not enforce so rigorously
s domestic slavery, although they also are fettered
a thousand inconvenient and inconsequent obser-
nces. It is the Schismatics who cling jealously to all
**absurd ceremonials which render their existence
uncomfortable as they can contrive to make it. The
lest son can smoke before his father, it is true; but the
ibouque is placed in such a position as to be invisible
the chief of the family, the smoker being obliged to
rn his hand backward to press the amber mouthpiece;
id, moreover, to select for this fleeting enjoyment the
ief moments when the eyes of his parent are averted.**

other o'casions they inhabit the
a noble apartment most luxu
they knit, embroider, or idle, a
tion. Like the Turkish wom
fond of flowers, and cultivate th
their gardens being as remarl
as are the interior of their d
ordinary cleanliness to which
elsewhere.

On the arrival of a male vi
ladies be wandering amid the l
they so much delight, the alar
they shuffle away to their pret
their heelless slippers will enal
haps, the guest may be a suit
not altered one iota. The lady
any attempt to indulge her cu
destined lord; while the gentl
his seat in the great saloon, a
of pipes, and making a thousa
or brother of his bride elect,
sumes his place in his caïqu
possession of all the particular
and in contented ignorance o
character or her person.

an monstrous calpac tricked out in the same finery, until he looks like a male Danaë; rue stolid Armenian philosophy he answers: I will take her."

opean young lady associates the idea of mar- tenderness, and indulgence, and domesti, ; emancipation from maternal authority e rative personal liberty. She smiles in the her own spirit at the fair visions of happi- ise before her; and there is no bitterness in dth which she quits the home of her infancy. rmenian maiden only exchanges one tyranny er; she is transported to the home of a whom a priest has told her that she is to love, she has never seen; beneath the roof-tree of om, henceforward, she is bound to honour, r heart may loathe the mockery. To obey t difficult duty, for she has been reared in ; but yet she cannot escape the pang of feel- uch more easy was that blind submission to will, when it was enforced by the mother who er to sleep upon her bosom in her infancy, ose knee she had sported in her girlhood; she is suddenly called upon to bow meekly e dictation of a new and strange task-mis- to her by no tie, save that new and unaccus- which has just been riveted by the church; ich she has become the slave not only of her ut of his parents also.

fortune, beauty, rank, they avail her no- two long years she must not speak before nother, save to reply to some question that it to her: and, should she herself become a e has yet a sterner and a more difficult task to she cannot even fondle her infant before but must fly and hide herself in her own

chamber when she would indulge the outpourings of maternal love.

How melancholy a contrast does this Armenian barbarism afford to the beautiful devotedness of every inmate of a Turkish harem to the comfort and happiness of infancy! There it is difficult to decide which is really the mother of the rosy, laughing, boisterous baby that is passed from one to the other; and welcome to the heart and arms of all. The little, plump, spoiled, mischievous urchin, whose life is one long holiday of fun and frolic; and whose few fleeting tears throw all around him into commotion. An infant is common property in a Turkish harem; a toy and a treasure alike to each; whether it be the child of the stately Hanoum whose will is law, or of the slave whose duty is obedience; and, it is certain that, if children could really be "killed with kindness," the Ottoman empire, in as far as the Turks themselves are concerned, would soon be a waste.

There can, I think, be no doubt that the life of cold, monotonous, heart-shutting ceremony led by the Armenians among themselves, has been in a great degree the cause of the stolidity of character with which I have elsewhere reproached them. It would, perhaps, be difficult to find a finer race of men in the world, as far as their personal appearance is concerned: while it is certain that nowhere could they be exceeded in mental, or I should rather say, moral inertness. In all affairs of commerce, where the subject may be reduced by rule, and decided by calculation, they are competent alike to undertake and to comprehend it: but once endeavour to wile them beyond the charmed circle of their money bags—to detach their thoughts for a moment from their piastres—and they cannot utter three consecutive sentences to which it is not a waste of time to listen

they are a most valuable portion of the popu-
dmits of no dispute; their steady commercial
heir unquestioning submission to "the powers
;" their plodding, unambitious natures, fit them
dy for their position in Turkey. Had they
ental energy, more self-appreciation, and more
evelopment, they could not continue to be the
tless imitators and idolators of their masters
y now are.

Armenian holds the same position among the
f the East as the buffalo among the quadru-
He bears his load, and performs his task with
, without appearing conscious that he can be
of anything beyond this; and even the Sarafs
ers to the Pashas, a class of men in whom I
l to encounter, at least occasionally, an indi-
f general acquirements and information, as far
wn experience went, scarcely formed an excep-
he rule. I knew many among them who were
ngly amiable, and possessed of great shrewdness,
was all professional subtlety; it extended not
the objects on which their personal interests
aged. Not one in a score can speak five words
European language, or be induced to exhibit
htest wish to acquire one. In a word, I should
: the Armenians, as a nation, were worthy, well
g, and useful, but extremely uninteresting mem-
society; possessing neither the energy of the
nor the strength of character so conspicuous in
nanli;—a money making, money loving people,
a proper regard for the "purple and fine linen"
world, and quite satisfied to bear the double yoke
Sultan and the priesthood.

CHAPTEI

Season—Changes at Constantinopl
den—Mariaritza, the Athenian
The Greek Girl's Song—The
Decorations—The Bath—The
Swans—The Air Bath—The
Kiosque—A Disappointment.

We landed at Constanti
winter: we had danced
palaces of Pera; seen th
the Valley of the Sweet
blossom among the tomb
We had hailed the brigh
approach with flowery fi
of the terrace gardens, w
the low murmuring bree
clear waters of the Bosp
among the leafy plane-
waves by moonlight i
flashed back t

flowers opening to receive the dew-offering poured forth as if in homage to their beauty; and the tinted lip of every orient blossom uplifted to the grateful touch of the tears of night. It was at the last hour of daylight; but, in the East, the giant darkness overshadows the earth only for an instant in his approach, ere he lays his sable hand on the landscape, and effaces its outline.

I had been passing the day in one of the palaces that skirt the channel. It was a season of festivity, and my father and myself had shared, with about fifty other guests, the princely hospitality of its owner; we had met early, and, after many hours of excitement and exertion, I felt that craving for mental repose always the most imperative after a lapse of time in which the spirit has been more taxed than the physical strength.

From the supper room I accordingly strolled into the garden. Daylight was just looking its last over the waters, when I turned listlessly from the broad path which, overhung with trellised roses, divided the parterre almost in the centre; and, striking into a screened way hedged on either side by a deep belt of evergreens and flowering shrubs, retreated with a rapid step from the immediate neighbourhood of the illuminated saloons that gaze upon the garden; and from whose open casements the light laughter and mirthful tones of the guests rang through the evening air. A slight dew was already falling, and the blossoming trees among which I passed were giving out a cool fresh scent as the moisture touched them; and the faint odour of the far-off orangery which was already invisible in the fading light, came occasionally on the breeze like a gush of incense wafted by the hand of nature in homage to her God.

Another breath! and down came the darkness, above and about me. The stern mountains were faintly pen-

seated on a broken colun
is of a magnificent ced
a branch of orange blo
her brow.
e was dressed in deep
she had flung the long
n common to her count
Greek. I scarcely kn
quite despair of makin
rs was not a face that w
heard much of her bef
xcited alike my curiosi
igh, since our acquainta
st had grown almost in
emained ungratified. S
nd-twenty; her stature

plexion swarthy; she was limbed like an a
her coal black hair was braided smoothly a
as haughty as that of an Empress. I a
sure that she had a good feature in her fac
eyes, although there have been moments
thought her not only handsome, but ev
beautiful; and her eyes, they can be d
those of no other person: you could n
them for a moment without feeling th
thralled. They were as black as midnigh
peculiarly shaped, set deeply into the he
what closer together than is usual.

But all this is commonplace. It was
and fashion of Mariaritza's eyes which m
singular: it was their extraordinary and
expression. I have seen them soft and li
of infancy; and, an instant afterwards, alm
their blinding brightness.

As I reached her side she looked up, an
blended ire and bitterness was in those da
as she exclaimed, without changing her po

"Ha! is it indeed you who are cheat
into a belief that you can love the silent
than the laughter and the flatteries of y
hearted fools?" and she jerked her veil
patiently in the direction of the palace
courted and the caressed; whom they ido
slip, because you can record them and
make them subject for song and story
far-off land? Go, go—the night air m
It is not for such as you to be abroad wh
on the earth."

I saw that the dark mood was on her.
her thus more than once; and I only
drawing a part of her long veil over m
and sitting down on the earth beside her.

"Nay, if you will really forsake then

my companionship," she murmured, while the moonlight that streamed upon her face was not more soft than the gaze which met mine as I looked up at her: "Let us free ourselves for a while from all risk of intrusion. I have been in the lime-avenue, but I had well nigh intruded on a love tale; and when I would fain have taken refuge in the ruined temple, found it tenanted by a Saraf and his pipe-bearer—"

"And I"—and as I spoke I raised her hand playfully to my lips; "I am to chace you hence!"

"You shall, if you so will it," said Mariaritza; "and if you will trust yourself with me for a couple of hours——"

"Any where—every where——"

The young Greek answered only by rising and moving hastily towards the house. In a moment I heard the clapping of her small hands; and in five minutes more her caique awaited us at the terraced gate which opened on the channel.

"The sternmost caiquejhe is deaf," whispered Mariaritza, as we established ourselves on the yielding cushions at the bottom of the arrow-like boat, and wrapped the furred pelisses, with which it was profusely supplied, carefully about us: "We have but to converse in a low voice, and we shall be safe, even although we should whisper treason of Mahmood himself!"

I answered with a similar jest; and we darted out into the centre of the channel, and on until we glided beneath the Asian shore. No! I shall never forget that night—and could I impart to my readers the tale to which I listened from that passionate Greek girl in a flood of moonlight, as we crept along under the shadows of the mighty hills, I might spare the asseveration. That night I heard all her secret; and from that hour I loved her!

Mariaritza was an Athenian; proud of her unsullied

ent, and of the loved land of her birth. She was visit to a rich relative at Constantinople; but she ed for Greece as the captive sighs for liberty; and ather that a wealthy suitor had presented himself, m her friends persecuted her to receive.

Did they know what is hidden *here!*" she ex- ned, as she alluded to this new lover, pressing her ll hand over her heart while she spoke: "Could guess the tale which I have confided to no ear yours,—but you are weeping—your tears are ht in the moonlight. God forgive me! but I did think that you knew how to weep."

Mariaritza!" I whispered reproachfully.

Pardon! pardon!" murmured the wayward girl, ding her arm about my neck: "Our lady have cy on me! It is my fate ever to pain those I love. I will talk of myself no more. Let us speak of ece, my own beautiful Greece! or, listen, I will to you a song that I ought long to have forgotten, *he* wrote it. Did I tell you that he, too, was an enian?"

nd without waiting for a reply, she warbled to a ntive melody some Greek stanzas, of which the owing is a free translation:—

THE GREEK GIRL'S SONG.

My own bright Greece! my sunny land!
Nurse of the brave and free!
How bound the chords beneath my hand
Whene'er I sing of thee—
The myrtle branches wave above my brow,
And glorious memories throng around me now!

Thy very name was once a spell—
A watchword in the earth;
With thee the Arts first deigned to dwell;
And o'er thy gentle hearth
The social spirit spread her gleaming wings,
And made it the glad home of pure and lovely things.

ling.

The freshness had passed away from the Valley of the Sweet Waters, and the turf had withered beneath a scorching sun; yet to me it was still beautiful. The sparkling Barbyses was shrunken to a silver thread; but in my mind's eye I yet saw it filling its graceful channel, and gliding like a snake through the silent glen. The cemetery of Eyoub was glorious! The lordly trees which overhang the tombs were rainbow-like in their tints; and the gilded headstones appeared to be over-canopied by living gems.

Every hour passed in the solemn Necropolis of Scutari was a distinct mine of thought. Its deep, dense shadows, its voiceless solitude, its melancholy sublimity, all remained as I had first felt them. The seasons effect no change on this city of the dead. The long dim avenues of cypress put on no summer livery to flaunt in the garish sunshine; amid the snows of winter, and the skies of spring, they wear the same dark hues—the autumnal beams shed no golden tints over their dusky foliage; nor do the summer heats betray them into blossoming. The grave-tree, nourished by the mouldering remnants of mortality, dank with the exhalations of the tombs, and rooted in a soil fed with corruption, drinks not the dews, and revels not in the day-beam, like the changeful child of the sunshine, which flings its leafy and light-loving branches over a painted kiosque, or a marble fountain. It is dark and silent, as the dead above whom it springs; and the wind moans more sadly among its

boughs, than when it
summer woods.

The very streets, nar
teeming as they were, ac
remembered that in a fe
no more. The columns
Greans" beside the mos
gorgeous fountain of To
longer look than heretofor
last.

These were our chosen ha
that was to convey us to th
we had decided on returnin
in the port, when an officer
bore to us the gracious per
visit his palaces; coupled wit
were to be unaccompanied by
a moment was to be lost! We
main in the country; and we
the morrow for crossing to the
of Beglierbey.

Our caique was at the pier of Ye
and we shot athwart the channel
sunshine, like wild birds. At the
met by the courteous individual wh
guide through the saloons of the S
made our bow to the *kiara*, who wa
we stepped across the threshold, fol
of the astonished guard; and skirting
garden, we passed along the line of g
veil the seaward boundary of the pleasu
entered the hall.

The first glance of the interior is not
double staircase, sweeping crescentwis
centre of the entrance, contracts its exte
to give it the appearance of being insig
proportions: an effect which is, moreo

ıeightened by the elaborated ornaments of the
and gilded balustrades and pillars. But such
from being the case in reality; as, from this
apartment, with its flooring of inlaid woods,
ıued ceiling, and numerous casements, open no
an eight spacious saloons, appropriated to the
ial household.

ve this suite are situated the state apartments;
us with gilding, and richly furnished with every
peculiar alike to the East and to the West. The
h divans of brocade and embroidered velvet are
d by sofas and lounges of European fashion,
rie from Geneva, porcelain from Sèvres, mar-
om Italy, gems from Pompeii, Persian carpets,
h hangings, and, in the principal saloons, six
most magnificent, if not actually *the* six *most*
ficent, pier-glasses in the world; a present to the
from the Emperor of Russia, after the treaty of
r Skelessi.

ards of twelve feet in height, and about six feet
th, of one single plate, and enclosed in a deep
of silver gilt, bearing the united arms of the two
s; these costly glasses reflect in every direction
naments of the apartment; and produce an
almost magical. While the highly elaborated
, richly ornamented with delicate wreaths of
s; and the bright-patterned carpet covering the
combine to fling over the vast saloon an atmo-
of light and gladness, which is increased by the
ıg glories of the parterre spread out beneath the
ws; with its flashing fountain, golden orangery,
ng line of gleaming lattices.
reception-room is small, and remarkable only for
mfortably-cushioned divan on which the Sultan
s his visitors; and the noble view that it com-
of the channel, from the Scraglio Point to the
of Mahomet.

The banqueting-hall is entirely lined with woods of rare and beautiful kinds finely inlaid, ceiling and the floor being alike enriched with garland of grapes and vine-leaves, flung over pine-apples of exquisite workmanship.

Hence, a long gallery conducted us to the apartments of the Sultan; and on every graceful fountains of white marble, whose waters fell with a musical sound into their basins. In one, the stream trickled from feathers wrought in alabaster; and so delicate that they almost appeared to bend beneath of the sparkling drops; in another, the stream forth, overflowing a lotus-flower, upon which a group of Cupids. The private apartments parated the harem from the state wing of were the very embodiment of luxurious ease of them were lined with wicker-work painted colour; the prettiest possible idea executed possible style.

The harem was, of course, a sealed book ladies of the Sultan's household have never lowed to indulge their curiosity by a survey tion of the palace appropriated to Mahmoud can scarcely be expected that any intruder admitted beyond the jealously-barred door of own boundary.

The bath was beautiful. As we passed door with its crescent-shaped cornice, we small hall in which two swans, the size wrought in pure white marble, were pouring water that supplies the cold stream necessary bathers. The cooling-room was richly hung broidered draperies; and the mirror was by the Ottoman arms wrought in gold. The bath itself realized a vision of the Arabian with its soft, dreamy twilight, its pure air

ness, and its exquisitely imagined fountains; and
ubdued effect of our voices, dying away in indistinct
murs in the distance, served to heighten the illusion.
together, the summer palace of Sultan Mahmoud
fair within as without; and I have already said
it is the most elegant edifice on the Bosphorus.
he gardens, which rise to the summit of the steep
ght immediately behind the Seraï, are formed into
races, each being under the direction of a foreign gar-
ner, and laid out in the fashion of his own land. Thus
ere is a Spanish, an Italian, an English, a German,
d a French garden. The deepest terrace is occupied
a fine sheet of water, called the Lake of the Swans,
which about thirty of these graceful birds, the Sul-
n's peculiar favourites, were disporting themselves in
clear sunshine. Weeping willows, and other grace-
trees, were mirrored in its calm bosom, and a couple
gaily-painted pleasure boats were moored under the
adow of a magnificent magnolia.

About fifty yards from the water, stands a graceful
ifice of white marble denominated the "Air Bath;"
which his Sublime Highness passes many a delicious
ur during the summer heats. The saloon is paved,
ofed, and lined with marble; and exquisitely ima-
ed fountains fling their waters from the lotus leaves
at are carved on the cornice of the apartment, through
uccession of ocean-shells, fantastically grouped, and
licately chiselled, which divide the stream into a hun-
ed slender threads, and ultimately pour their volume
o the basins, whence it escapes into the lake without,
eping up a continual current of cool air, and murmur
sweet sound, which produce an effect almost magical.

the centre of this saloon, whence several inferior
artments branch off on either side, stands a magnifi-
nt vase of verd-antique, about eight feet in height; a
sent to the Sultan from the Emperor Nicholas.

The hill is crowned by a gilded kiosque, glitterin

among cypresses and plane-tre
lishment is more like a fairy c
human invention and labour.

On the morrow, we decided
to the Serai Bournou ; as the
fixed for our departure. But,
came, we had reason to congrat
already penetrated beyond the
waves of the channel were rum
the opposite coast was lost in
and rain. The disappointme
there was no alternative, we w
For once "our star was bankru
console ourselves with the refle
Asia had been so worthily spe

CHAPTER XVII.

horus in Mist—The Perdinando Primo—Embarkation—Passengers—The Black Sea—Turkish Women—Varna—the Pasha—Rustem Bey—Mustapha Najib Pasha—Gallantry—The Lines—Sunset Landscape—Bulgadonies—Discomforts of a Deck Passage.

R beheld the Bosphorus to less advantage than norning of our departure from Constantinople; f to lessen our regrets on leaving it, its shores ncealed by mists formed of small light rain, ffectually veiled their beauty. As cloud after lled by, each succeeded by a denser and darker than its predecessor, we lost sight of every ad object; and, though I flung back the casend turned "a last, long, lingering look" along nel, I was unable to distinguish even the most nt points of view.

team-vessel *Ferdinando Primo*, in which we ired our passage, was to arrive at Yenikeuy at ; and we spent the earlier hours of the morn- some Greek friends whose summer residence g the stream; and from whose windows we had been enabled to see the fairy-like Palace of ey, and the hill-seated Castle of Mahomet. as! for our parting associations, the gilded f the Imperial Serai, and the ancient towers of phet's Fortress, were alike invisible; despite er of the one, and the whitewash which had re-

ently been profusely and provokingly lav
lime-tinted walls of the other.

Onward crept the mist as the day advan
length the opposite shore became veiled
so dense that even the little village of S
mediately facing the terrace, disappeared;
was distinguishable through the darkne
foamy crests of the waves, as they were dr
by the force of the current; and the white
sea gull's extended wings, as he dipped h
an instant in the troubled waters, and the
a wild cry, into the murky atmosphere.

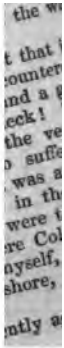
It was an hour of tears; and I am n
whether at the moment I repined that n
shone forth to mock them; while I am
certain that a more comfortless sensatio
pressed me, than that with which I cont
approach of the vessel through the turbid
column of sable smoke lending a deepe
angry clouds; and her prow dashing asid
in streaks of foam. As she lay to in
house, we hurried into the caique that
freighted with our luggage; turned a last
the kind ones who thronged the terrace
the fast falling rain, and pushed out into

When we reached the packet, we we
wet, and had to dispatch our cloaks, shaw
to the engine-room to dry; while our trun
manteaux were lifted dripping upon the
the last touch of discomfort to our emb
a long and tedious voyage. In one re
however, fortunate; as, from being the
board (and, indeed, the first who had ye
the passage), I found myself in possessio
modious and comfortably arranged cabi
with every requisite for lessening the inco
ship board.

In twenty minutes we were off Therapia; and ten more we entered the Bay of Buyukdèrè. By time we reached this point, the fog had deepened much as to render it uncertain whether we should enabled to leave the Bosphorus until the follow morning—a resolution to which the Russian steam the Nicholas I., had already come the more read as she had on board the mother and sister of Mada de Boutenieff, who were not anxious to tempt perils of the Black Sea at so unpropitious a mome Mr. Ellis, our late ambassador in Persia, was among her passengers; and, like the ladies, he quietly preparing for a comfortable dinner at the R sian Palace.

As we lay alongside, these tidings were commu cated by the captain of the Nicholas, who natura endeavoured to induce our own to follow his exam and remain in the bay until daylight; but the c mander of the Ferdinand had too much energy yield to the suggestion; and at seven o'clock in evening, the weather having somewhat moderated, summoned on board one of his passengers who delayed his embarkation until the last moment, set the steam on; when away we went, to the g chagrin of the rival establishment: leaving behin two or three of the deck passengers, who had failed pay attention to the signals which were made to nounce to them our instant departure.

Our party was a pleasant one. We had a Prus Baron, tall, serious, and highly bred; a German no *gay*, voluble, and *tant soit peu gourmand*; a Col of the Coldstream Guards; an Hungarian Cava holding a distinguished rank in the Austrian serv a *Russian*-Greek artist, bound on a tour of Italy, full of enthusiasm both for himself and his art; Captain of the Levant steam boat, on a survey of Dardanelles navigation; my father, and myself. The



t we were for a few moments undecided as to the st eligible spot on which to land; nor was it with- difficulty that we ultimately effected our purpose; l almost immediately on entering the main street the town, we encountered Rustem Bey, the com- ndant, a fine, intelligent, young Italian officer, in service of the Porte, who speaks several European guages, as well as the Turkish, most fluently; and o would ere this have been created a Pasha, could have been induced to embrace Islamism.

The answer which he is reported to have made when terms of his promotion were explained to him, is rthy of record: "I feel all the honour which I use, but I am nevertheless compelled to forego it; can dispose of my services, but I am not at liberty sell my conscience."

Under his guidance we traversed the town, and ssed the ruined citadel, on our way to the palace of ustapha Najib Pasha, the present governor; who s removed from his post at Tripoli, in order to take ssession of this important charge. The palace is a ndsome and somewhat extensive modern building, mmanding, from one of its fronts, an excellent view the fortifications, and separated only by a high wall m the barracks, which are capable of accommoda- g several thousand men.

With an extent of courtesy unusual in the East, jib Pasha received us standing; and welcomed us h the cordial *Bouroum* as he motioned us to the fa on which he had himself been sitting. He is a narkably animated looking man, of about five-and- ty, with a quick eye, and a most agreeable smile. e was surrounded by papers: and beside the chi- ague that he had been smoking lay a small model ma ounting guns upon their carriages.

The most costly pipes were introduced for the gentle- and offered to myself; and the procession of

"blue-coated serving man" was quite [illegible] they entered with the long chibouque in [illegible] and in the other the little brass dish, in which knelt, they deposited the bowl of the pip[illegible] succeeded, and was replaced by raisin [illegible] as we shortly afterwards expressed our desire the fortifications, we were instantly offered enable us to ride round the lines. The guid[illegible] thus provided for at once; but, as I was not for such an excursion, I was about to resign to what I considered an inevitable disappo[illegible] when the Pasha courteously expressed his re[illegible] he could not provide me with an European and begged me to accept his carriage as a [illegible] I gladly availed myself of his kindness; and w[illegible] equipage was preparing, listened with as much prise as interest to the conversation with [illegible] beguiled the time. Among other things, he mani[illegible] his extreme disappointment at the non-receipt fr[illegible] Europe of some able works on fortification, that had been long expecting; and expressed his ear[illegible] desire to possess models of all the new inventions ta[illegible] ing to perfect the works upon which he was engag[illegible] He inquired whether he could offer to us anything t[illegible] would be acceptable on board; and even enumera[illegible] milk, fruits, and sweetmeats, which he pressed u[illegible] us with an earnestness perfectly demonstrative of sincerity.

On our rising to take leave, he said that he sho[illegible] expect us back to dinner, and that he would caus[illegible] to be prepared against our return; and he appea[illegible] much hurt at our assurance of the impossibility our availing ourselves of his hospitality. As we w[illegible] preparing to make our parting salutation, he left room, and moved forward to the head of the sta[illegible] where he saluted us individually as we passed him the kindest and most gracious manner, wishing u[illegible]

oyage, and assuring us of the pleasure that ived from our visit.

of servants followed us to the door, where he *kavashlir* of the Pasha stationed on either ıtrance, to do us honour. But a still more object was the German britscha, drawn by Tartar horses, which was awaiting me at the ». The carriage held forth such goodly pro- Colonel II—— and Rustem Bey only were ir original purpose of riding round the lines, the party immediately being of opinion that d prefer a drive. Nor had they any reason he arrangement, for the spirited little Tartars along at a surprising pace over all the rough n ground, and through all the ditches of the ıood, as though they had been cantering owling-green. The fortifications are pro- ıpidly, and most creditably; five thousand onstantly employed on the works, and the occasionally doubled.

evening was closing in ere we regained the scene was extremely singular. The huts of ian labourers, built of branches, and huddled ı clusters, were rendered visible by the camp blazed up among them, and revealed the ures of those who were engaged in the culi- arations of the little colonies to which they while the appearance of the carriage drew rances of their primitive dwellings all the d inhabitants of the temporary village.

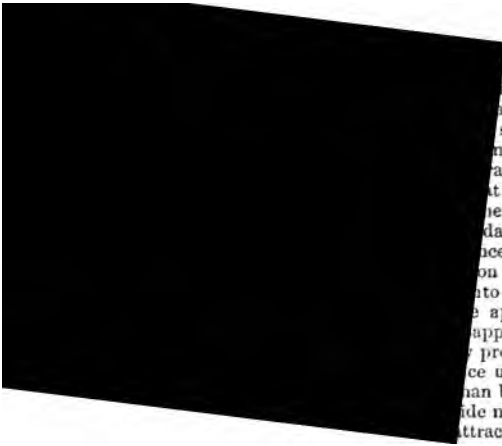
s outskirts herds of cattle were to be seen, urning from their mountain pastures to the f the town; and driven by ragged urchins, p-skin caps and gaiters. The sun, mean- s setting gloriously; and the outline of the ns cut darkly against a back-ground of d crimson clouds, that stretched far along

the west, and were pillowed upon two dark and stately mountains. Altogether the scene was one of enchantment; and I believe that there was not an individual of the party who did not regret the necessity of exchanging it for the "floating prison" that awaited us on the Euxine, and which we regained under a heavy swell that rendered our passage from the shore the very reverse of agreeable.

During our visit, the deck of the Ferdinand had been nearly cleared of its passengers; and the poor old Turkish woman whom I have already mentioned, had, with some difficulty, crawled forth from her awning, shivering with cold, and looking the very picture of wretchedness. I had endeavoured in vain during the day to induce her to bathe her hands and feet with brandy; for she no sooner smelt it than she put it from her, exclaiming, "Sin—sin;" nor could I prevail on her to follow my advice. The only thing that she would receive was a cup of coffee, and on that she seized as a famishing man would have clutched food. It was really a relief to me when I saw her safely embarked on board the boat which was to land her at Varna.

On our departure from Buyukdèrè, we had been half amused and half annoyed by the efforts of a young Turkish officer, to appear unconcerned at the rough treatment that we were experiencing from the tempest-chafed waves of the Black Sea. He sang, he shouted, he tossed his arms above his head, and yelled forth his *Mashallahs* at every roll of the vessel; but ere we had been tossing about many hours, the exulting tones died away in a querulous treble, which announced that his exultation was destined to be short lived; and on the morrow I remarked that he walked the deck with a step as tremulous as that of a lady; and was one of the first to make his escape on shore.

wo little Greek girls who were bound for
ere still lying upon the deck, rolled in their
ses: in that state of hopeless and resigned
hich is the last stage of sea nausea; and
retired for the night, their young brother
g beside them, with a pale cheek and heavy
though he. too, had not escaped a portion of
ering.



wooden stakes driven into the ground, and suppo
at about the height of eight feet from the ear
small platform of wicker work, thatched-in som
feet higher; which we ascertained were construct
sleeping places, wherein the unhappy dwellers i
Moldavian marshes took refuge against the clou
musquitoes that infest the Danube, and which,
of immense size, inflict a sting that is far from
temptible. Fortunately for their human victims,
voracious insects fly low, never trusting themsel
the current of wind that, as it sweeps along, r
overcome their strength of wing; and thus this so
medium of escape from their virulence is adopte
along the river.

At ten o'clock at night we arrived off Tu
where we remained only an hour; and then profit
the moonlight to pursue our voyage to Galatz, v
we reached at five in the morning, and anchored i
the quarantine ground, a small space railed of
the exclusive use of the steam company, and sepa
from the road leading into the town by a double
sading of wood about breast high.

Here commenced our land miseries! We were l
upon as a society of plague conductors, and tr
accordingly. Parties of the Galatzians collected
the outer fence to contemplate the infected ones v
contact they dreaded; and meanwhile we enjoye
privilege of walking up and down an avenue form
coals on the one side, and tallow packed into ski
the other.

We were visited at the palisades by the Britisl
Austrian Consuls; and by a Prussian gentleman,
on our arrival at Constantinople, had been in th
vice of the Sultan, which he had now exchange
that of the Hospodar of Moldavia. We had mac
acquaintance at the military college, and he had
long on the look-out for us at Galatz.

He appeared perfectly satisfied with his new speculation, and talked much of the enjoyment of the liberty of this new locality; a liberty in which we were unfortunately not permitted to share. And such being the case, we bade adieu to our friends on the town side of the fence; and, after having ascertained that the Pannonia steamer, which should have been on the spot ready to receive us, would not reach Galatz until late at night, we determined on rowing across to the opposite shore of Silistria, in order to relieve our ennui.

Bread and wine having been provided, we accordingly prepared for our excursion; the captain's gig was lowered; and I had the honour of being rowed across the Danube by the most aristocratic boat's crew that had probably ever "caught crabs" in its muddy waters; all the seamen belonging to the vessel being employed in lading and unlading merchandize.

Nothing could exceed the wretchedness of the little hamlet that was seated along the edge of a creek, into which we passed when we had gained the Silistrian side of the river. The low hovels, rudely built of mud, and roofed with reeds, were lighted by windows of oiled lambskin; the floors were of earth, the chimneys of basket-work; and nothing more cheerful than twilight could penetrate into the single apartment which served for "kitchen, and parlour, and hall." Not the slightest attempt at a garden was visible, though the village stood upon the verge of an extensive wild, stretching away far as the eye could reach, and covered with redundant, although stunted, vegetation. The ground-ash, the caper-tree, the gum-cistus, the wild hollyhock, the flag-reed, and the water-willow were abundant; while patches of white clover and vetches were scattered about in every direction.

As the Baron E—— was lame, and unable to undertake a long walk, he with some difficulty procured a horse that had just been released from a waggon, the

sant to whom it belonged not being proof
ight of a purse, which was shook before him
efficient language that could be employed
he demand: and, when the laughing German
ed the packsaddle, armed with his meer-
l cane, and grasped the knotted rope that
substitute for a bridle, he was by no means
cturesque of the party.

not long pursued the path leading to the
ither we were bound, when we heard the
at mid-day by the Ferdinand, in honour of
s the Hospodar of Moldavia, who chanced
ng temporarily at Galatz; and to whom, as
ticularly sollicitous to facilitate by every
le power the local arrangements of the steam-
they were careful to pay all due honour;
somewhat more, as they gave him a salute
twenty guns, that came booming along the
gh which we were wandering, and echoing
ters of the little stream that bordered it;
ie birds by which the river-willows were
nd dispelling momently the deep silence of
litude.

after a walk of considerable length, we
e hamlet that was the object of our excur-
cited universal attention and astonishment
women and children who crowded the cot-
and who were universally clad in course
; the females wearing huge silver ear-
d bracelets of coloured glass, and rings of
asion. All were bare-footed; and the chil-
huddled together in groups to gaze upon
strangers, were wretched-looking little mor-
heir light hair hanging in elf-locks about
nd their rags fluttering in the breeze. In
ver beheld a more thorough demonstration
that human necessities actually exceed but

ful and happy
their innocent vanities, and
coloured glass trinkets.

The only men whom we s
gaged in packing water-melo
cars destined to convey ther
and of some of these we i
selves. A shawl flung over
reeds, and propped by a r
an awning for me, and we
delicious meal, seated on th
flowers. As we sauntered
side, we collected some
driven up the creek by th
fine tortoise that was sunn
we carried on board; wh
tigued with our ramble in

We were amusing ours
watching the passage of t
pel by a wooden paddle p
Indians, when we obser
down upon a little wood
stern of the Ferdinand
marked two gaudy-loo
stripes of red and bl
sprang into the largest
the boats themselves
persuading ourselves t

prince, and not a party of Tyrolean ballet-dancer They wore broad-flapped hats, bound by a riband red and blue, hanging in long ends upon their shoulder and ornamented in front by a large M, worked in gold their shirts and trousers were of white, with braces an garters of red and blue; while white scarlet sashe fringed at the extremities, completed their costum The Moldavian banner was hastily affixed to the ste of the boat; and then a party of servants thronged th pier, who were succeeded by a couple of aides-de-cam and a grave elderly gentleman in an oriental dres and lastly arrived the princess, a middle-aged, plain looking person, attended by three ladies, who were du cloaked and shawled by the obsequious aides-de-cam

During this process the guns of the Ferdinand we once more prepared; and the fantastically clad boa men had not dipped their oars thrice into the strea and Her Highness the Hospodar*ess* was yet under th stern of the ship, when bang went the first gun, wi a flash and a peal that somewhat discomposed h nerves; and she raised her arm deprecatingly towar the captain, who stood bare-headed near the whee but the gesture was unheeded.

"She wishes you to desist, Captain Everson;" remarked, as I detected the action.

"Can't help that, ma'am;" answered the com mander of the Ferdinand: "she's the Prince's wif and she shall have her thirteen guns, whether she lik them or not."

She "had" them accordingly, and they were fired excellent style; while the two boats of the Principali flaunted their particoloured glories across to the oth shore. I do not know whether Her Highness anticipate the probability of being compelled to "smell powder on her return, as well as on her departure; but it certain that she did not land near the Ferdinand wh she repassed to the Moldavian side of the river.

—On his right stood
ith a dozen ribbons,
pened his mouth wit
"Mon Prince" in
ation; and on his lef
ng man of very ge
nce. Immediately
Minister of the Inter
l the procession was
, officers of the hou

d a considerable t
ere they came on b

suspect that His Highness began to repent that he had volunteered so perilous a visit; but as it was too late to recede, he at length ventured to trust "Cæsar and his fortunes" to the temporary keeping of the Plague-ship; and advancing to the stern of the vessel where our party were standing, he very graciously expressed his regret that he could not avail himself, as he should have been delighted to do, of our presence in the Principality, by claiming us as guests during our stay, owing to the unhappy prevalence of plague in the country we had left. After this he talked very solemnly of the necessity of strictly observing the quarantine: made two or three more bows in a peculiarly ungraceful style; declined the champagne that had been prepared for him in the great cabin; and made his exit with infinitely more alacrity than he had made his entry; only pausing in the enclosure to lift his hat as the first gun was fired, of the salute which celebrated his visit.

When His Highness had departed, and that the last scene of this Moldavian comedy had been enacted, we had nothing left to do but to walk the deck, and contemplate the muddiest-looking of all rivers. Unlike the Pasha of Varna, the Hospodar made no inquiry into our wants and wishes, and no offer of the local milk and honey that might have tended to increase our comfort on board; although the Captain of the Ferdinand sent him a bushel basket of magnificent grapes, which, after they had been subjected to repeated immersion, were declared to be non-conductors, and were admitted to *pratique* accordingly.

It was not until five o'clock in the afternoon of the second day, that the Pannonia anchored beside us; and, as she had to take her coals on board, she could not sail until eight and forty hours after her arrival. The transfer of passengers did not take place until late on the morrow; for when the inferiority of our accom-

modations became apparent; we of the Pannonia in no haste to change our quarters.

We had left Constantinople in a fine, where a barrier was erected which prevented deck from the intrusion of the inferior pas where the cabins were fitted up and supp most liberal manner with every thing that tribute to the convenience of their occup although we were quite prepared for hav Pannonia, from the fact of her being mainly boat, we were by no means satisfied on the confusion that existed on her decks; where dirty Turks, and noisy Greeks, were squatted funnel to her stern; blocking up the path of the passengers, and filling their clothes with vermin, their atmosphere with the fumes of bad tobacco; the cheerless discomfort below, where not even washing-stand had been provided; and we were suddenly thrown upon our own resources for all those little comforts, that from the arrangement of the vessel in which we left the port of Constantinople, we were entitled to expect throughout the voyage. Thus much for the disarray of the Pannonia; and I mention it in order to prepare future travellers on the Danube not to be misled, as we ourselves were by the satisfactory aspect of the Ferdinand, into a belief that such will continue to gladden them on the river; while, on the other hand, I am bound in justice to add, that the table is infinitely better served than that of the first vessel a fact that may perhaps compensate to many individuals for the absence of those personal comforts which our own party so bitterly felt the want.

Nor must I omit to make honourable mention of the *artiste* to whom this department was confided. Italian by birth, and a wit by nature, as well as a cook by profession, we were indebted to him and his guitar for many a pleasant hour that would otherwise have

enough. As the dusk grew into dark-
o come upon deck with his instrument,
olitan *buffo* songs, with a spirit and *gusto*
onvulsed us with laughter. And as we
im, listening to his minstrelsy, and look-
ight moonlight silvering along the river-
was not overshadowed by the tall trees that
bank beside which we were gliding; and
i our somewhat noisy merriment the deep
ose scantily peopled shores; the effect upon
as most extraordinary.

XIX.

of Silistria—Bravery of the
oup of Pelicans—Glorious Sun-
f Provisions—The Wallachian
—Orava—Roman Bath—Green
la Glavoda—Custom House Offi-
chian Mountains—A Landscape
ian Peasantry—The Village Belte
Port de Fer—The Crucifix—Mag-

ne morning we were off Hir-
d some more deck-passengers,
ce and discomfort. The few
we had passed since our de-
e of the most wretched descrip-
lf is in a ruined state, having
n by the Russians after a gallant
s. It is situated in a gorge be-
on the lower of the two stand the
rtress, of which only a few crum-
itary buttress now remain. This
nately commanded by the opposite
e Russians threw up fortifications,
they kept up an incessant fire upo
fort, and ultimately destroyed bot
still imbedded in the bank of t
e shore; and knowing what I do
no doubt that it would be impossi

to prevail on them to touch them, even
of traffic.

Whenever the boat stopped, crowd
flocked to the edge of the water, and
her in admiring wonder; for as this
twelfth voyage, their curiosity and ast
not yet subsided. From Hirsova the
gan to improve on the Bulgarian sid
trees just touched with the first autun
at intervals a glimpse of higher land
relieved the eye.

At two o'clock in the morning we arri
a small town surrounded by outworks,
for the brave resistance of its garrison c
sand men, to an army of fifty thou
A resistance so obstinate, or I should
heroic, as to endure for nine long mon
terminated only by the utter destructio
and the partial demolition of its defen
cowers among its desolate dwellings, i
now peopled only by three thousand ir
it has earned for itself a place in the p
which could not be more worthily filled

At half-past two in the afternoon we w
a very extensive village, presenting a
appearance, almost every cottage havin
stack within the little garden fence, i
dwelling itself; and many of the cotta
lowed in the rock, while strings of
wreathed most of the doorways, and g
aspect to the scene. A numerous popu
the shore and the streets, who only
several occupations for a moment as
watch our progress, and then resumed
occupation of reed-thatching the cotta
forth their cattle to the high lands in
distance.

Such herds of horses, oxen, buffaloes, and such flocks of goats and sheep, as are scattered the whole of the Bulgarian shore, I never saw life! The land in the immediate vicinity of was highly cultivated, and abounded in corn fi vineyards; giving evidence of much greater and industry in its peasantry than any land we had yet witnessed. About half a mile ab village a row of water mills, six in numb moored across the current; each mill was on on two floating barges of very curious const and as they were all at work they presented a appearance.

Shortly after we had passed Turtuki, we sa twenty pelicans congregated on a bar of sand projected into the river. And during the da marked several eagles on the wing; and also the beautiful white aigrette herons, whose plumage glistened in the sunshine.

I never beheld a more glorious sunset than evening. We had passed several wooded fringed with river willows, and forming point that almost appeared to have been artificia duced; and we were just sailing past one of th the sun disappeared behind the high land b it was backed, and shed over the sky tints s and so deeply marked, as to make the river like liquid gems. At this moment a sudden the Danube brought us beneath a rock crown the crumbling ruins of a Genoese castle, at wh a flock of goats were browsing on the green un that clothed its fissures. Nothing more was to complete the beauty of the picture; and fr moment we all began to entertain hopes of provement in the aspect of the country throug we had yet to pass.

The next town we reached was Ruschuk,

of considerable extent, walled, and surrounded by a ditch. It contains only three thousand inhabitants, though it formerly boasted thirty thousand, but exhibits no symptom of that desolation we had remarked in several other towns on the river. It possesses nine mosques; and its main street is wider and more carefully paved than any in Constantinople. Its principal trade is in salt from Olenitza, sugar, iron, and manufactured goods; its exports are live stock, grain, wool, and timber; and its industry comprises sail-making by the women, and boat-building by the men.

The extreme cheapness of food at Ruschuk struck me so much that I took some pains to ascertain the price of the most common articles of consumption; and I subjoin the result of my inquiries as a positive curiosity. Eggs were two hundred for a shilling; fowls were accounted exorbitant, and the high value which they constantly maintained was accounted for by the fact that the market of Constantinople was in a great degree supplied from thence, they were twopence each; ducks and geese, from the same cause, cost twopence halfpenny; turkeys averaged tenpence, being a favourite food with the Orientals; beef three halfpence the oke of two pounds and three quarters; mutton the same price; the wine of the country one piastre the quart; grapes a halfpenny the oke; melons and pasteks of immense size, three farthings each; bread equally cheap, but bad.

Shortly after leaving Ruschuk, I was amused for a considerable time in watching some cormorants that were diving for fish; while every sand in the shallows of the river was covered with hundreds of blue plover. Wild ducks and geese also flew past the vessel in clouds; and we purchased small sturgeon and sword fish from a boat with which we came in contact.

The Wallachian coast still continued to present one swampy and uninteresting flat, save at distant inter-

vals, when a scattered and treeless village, built upon the slope of a slight rise, broke for an instant upon its tame monotony. But Bulgaria grew in beauty as we approached its boundary. Noble hills, well clothed with trees gay in all the rainbow tints of autumn, and contrasting the deep rich umber hues of the fading beech, and the bright yellow of the withering walnut, with the gay red garlands of the wild vine, which flung its ruby coloured wreaths from tree to tree, linking them together in one glowing wreath. Snug little villages, with each its tiny fleet of fishing boats, and its sandy shore covered with groups of gazers; the better classes clad after the Asiatic fashion—the men wearing their turbans large and gracefully arranged, and the women suffering the *yashmac* to hang nearly to their feet above the dark *feridjhe*; and the poorer among them clad in shapeless woollen garments, and high caps of black sheep-skin. Herds of horses bounding over the hills in all the graceful hilarity of freedom; droves of buffaloes lying in the deep mud of the river, basking in the sunshine; vineyards overshadowed by fruit trees; fields neatly fenced from the waste, and rich with vegetables and grain—in turn varied the prospect. Nor had we wearied of the scene when, at two o'clock P.M., we arrived at Sistoff, a small but flourishing town, with the ruin of an old castle perched on a height immediately above it. Here, greatly to our satisfaction, we landed most of our deck passengers; and a little after seven in the evening we found ourselves abreast of Nicopolis, but owing to the darkness we could only trace the outline of the town sufficiently to discover that it was tolerably extensive, and surrounded by high bluff lands.

Having been detained several hours by the fog, which was extremely dense at daybreak, we did not reach Orava until near mid-day. This town, which was destroyed by the Russians during the reign of Cathe-

appears to be of considerable extent, but is only dially fortified. It possesses five or six mosques, me of which are scarcely visible from the river, ing to the very high land that intervenes between a rtion of the town and the shore. The ruins of an l castle on the summit of a rock, and of a Roman th on the water's edge, give a picturesque effect to locality. Some hours later we anchored on the allachian side to take in coals, which were obtained om Hungary, and said to be of very excellent quality; e little enclosure that contained them was situated ne to one of the sanatory stations, and we were not mitted to approach within a hundred yards of the hite-coated Wallachians. We revenged ourselves, wever, by wandering over the plain, gathering wild wers and blackberries, and giving chase to some of e most beautiful little green frogs that ever were en: they looked like leaping leaves! Eight pelicans ssed us on the wing during the day.

Another dense fog prevented our progress after seven the evening, as the pilot refused to incur the respon-sibility of the vessel; and we accordingly anchored ntil three o'clock the following morning, when we rted again in a bright flood of moonlight; and in out four hours we arrived opposite to Widdin, where anchored. It is a large and handsome town, ongly fortified with a double line of works of great portance. The fortifications are in good order, and tend, as we are told, about twelve hundred yards ong the bank of the river, while the lines on the ndward side are kept with equal care, and are of nilar extent. The walls are protected by four strong stions, and the guns are all said to be in an efficient ite. The Pasha's palace, based on the outer walls, oks as bleak and comfortless as a barrack; but its ndows command a noble view of the river. The inarets of twelve or fourteen mosques relieve the

outline of the picture; and immediately opposite, on the Wallachian side, stands the low, flat, rambling town of Kalefat, whence the country assumes a new and more interesting character. A graceful curve in the river carried us past the quarantine establishment, a group of wretched buildings, crowded close to the water's edge, and enclosed within a rude wooden paling, backed by a lofty cliff that runs far along the shore, riven into a thousand fantastic shapes; while here and there we had distant glimpses of cultivated valleys and wooded hills.

The aspect of the country improved throughout the whole day; abrupt and precipitous heights, wooded to the very summits; stretches of corn and pasture land; multitudinous herds of cattle; and laughing plains, gay with grass and wild flowers, flitted rapidly by; while the bold cloud-crested mountains above Orsova formed a noble back-ground to the picture.

At noon we were abreast of Florentin, the last Bulgarian village on the bank of the river, and decidedly the most picturesque locality on the Lower Danube. The hamlet was nestled beneath a rock, three of whose sides were washed by the river, while the fourth was protected by a deep ditch; and the tall, bluff, perpendicular rock itself was crowned by a Gothic castle, whose gray outline, apparently nearly perfect, completed a tableau so strikingly beautiful as to elicit an universal exclamation of delight.

We ran past Scala Glavoda in the night, from which circumstance I lost the opportunity of seeing Trajan's bridge, whose arches may be distinguished beneath the level of the water; and at midnight we anchored at a straggling village about half a league above it. Here we took leave of the Pannonia; and as the river is not navigable for a considerable distance for any thing but flat-bottomed boats, whose wearisome course against the current is secured by the assistance of

en, who tow them lazily on their way; we were liged to proceed to Orsova by land. Custom-house ficers came on board to examine the merchandize ith which the vessel was freighted, but they did not terfere with the luggage of the passengers; and, as on as bullock cars had been secured, we despatched ur packages on shore, whither we shortly followed em.

On the opposite shores rose the mountains of Walchia, just touched upon their summits with the rilliant tints of the newly risen sun, and clothed with many-coloured foliage. The hills, beside which we ad passed during the previous day, had closed upon s in the rear; and the chain which terminates in the *Porte de Fer*, or Iron Door, a bar of rock that nearly traverses the Danube, and over which its waters toss nd boil in impotent violence, shut in the forward view.

In the bottom of the gorge ran the river, whence rose the column of steam escaping from the chimney f the Pannonia; and the Servian shore was scattered ver with the multifarious properties of the passengers. he village ran along the bank of the river, and consted of log huts, most ingeniously constructed, lined ith a cement formed of clay, and thatched, like those Bulgaria, with reeds, and the straw of the Indian orn, interspersed with small tenements of wicker ork raised on poles, and serving as store houses for uits and grain.

The difference of costume between the peasantry of ervia and those of the adjoining country, was remarkbly striking. The men had added a wide sash of rich carlet to the dress of the Bulgarians, and wore their oollen greaves, and the sleeves of their shirts worked ith dark-coloured worsteds; while the women were ttired in the most singular manner that can well be nagined. They universally retained the wrapping

dress of white linen that we had remarked all along this shore of the Danube; but above it they had placed a couple of aprons of thick woollen stuff, striped or checked with dark blue; one of which they wore before, and the other behind, leaving the linen garment uncovered on either side to the waist; but their head gear was yet more extraordinary, and at the same time singularly picturesque.

The younger among them were their hair confined by a simple band across the forehead; to which were attached branches of bright-coloured flowers, such as marigolds, hollyhocks, and the blossoms of the scarlet bean; intermixed with strings of small silver coin, in greater or less quantities. I remarked that even the youngest of the girls, children of five and six years of age, were thus decorated; some of them not possessing, however, more than half a dozen little para pieces; and as each of these girls was twirling her distaff with all the gravity of a matron, I imagine that, precisely as the Asiatics accumulate strings of pearl by the slow produce of their industry, so, in like manner, the female peasantry of Servia increase their ornaments through the medium of their own individual exertions; and I was the more confirmed in this opinion, by observing that in every instance save one the number of coins worn upon the head appeared to preserve an equal proportion with the years of the wearer.

The exception to which I allude was on the person of a young girl of about seventeen, from whose braided tresses coins of considerable size fell in every direction nearly to her waist; while her throat was encircled by a succession of the same ungraceful ornaments, descending like scale-armour low upon her bosom. There was an elastic spring in her movements, as her small naked feet pressed the sandy path; and an expression bordering upon haughtiness in her large dark

se, which betrayed the daughter of the village chief. would peril the value of every coin she wore that I id her fortune aright!

The elder women wore linen cloths bound about their ads with a grace which would have suited the draping a statue; the long ends of the scarf being secured hind the ear, and forming deep folds that looked, a short distance, as though they were hewn in arble: and above this drapery, rows of coins were posed, helmet-wise, in such profusion that, as the nlight glanced upon them, they were perfectly zzling. Nor did the matrons dispense with the ndy knots of flowers so general among their younger untrywomen; and the gay effect of a group of Ser-an females may consequently be imagined. Some nong them were tolerably pretty; nearly all had fine ght black eyes, and they were universally erect and ely made, with a step and carriage at once firm and raceful.

Ranged along the road stood the line of bullock-aggons, intended for the transport of our luggage; id beside them a nondescript carriage of wicker-work awn by two gray horses for the accommodation of ch of the party as preferred driving to walking. We ere, however, some time before we were fairly *en route;* id still longer before any one felt inclined to forego ie pleasure of wandering through the long grass that ordered the edge of the plain, through which wound ie road leading to Orsova.

For a brief interval we lost sight of the river, and con-nued to advance along the rude path, scaring the wild irds from their resting-places among the stunted ranches of the dwarf oaks and beeches that clothed ; or threading along the boundaries of the wide atches of Indian corn which had been redeemed rom the waste. But as the day advanced, the heat ecame so great as to render any further progress on

feet too fatiguing to be pleasurable; and four of our party accordingly taking possession of the carriage, we started at a brisk pace along the smooth and easy road; and after a precipitous descent, down which the horses galloped at a pace infinitely more speedy than safe, we found ourselves once more on the shore of the Danube, where it is separated in the centre by a long bar of sand, terminating in a small island of rock, now crowned with the remnants of a ruined fortress.

Twenty minutes more brought us to the *Porte de Fer*; which does not, however, extend all across the river, as there is a sufficient width of sand left free of all rock on the Servian side, to render the formation of a canal sufficiently extensive to ensure the safe passage of moderately-sized vessels extremely easy. Nothing in nature can be more lovely than the landscape at this point of the river; it is shut in on all sides by majestic rocks overgrown with forest-trees; and haunted by the wild boar, the wolf, and the bear. Eagles soar above their pinnacles; and singing-birds make the air vocal at their base; while beneath them rushes the chafed and angry river, foaming and roaring over the line of rock that impedes the accustomed onward flow of its waters.

Another turn in the road, and the Danube is hidden from view by a wooded strip of land, which has forced a portion of the river from its natural channel, as if to accompany the traveller upon his way, as he follows the chain of rock along a road so narrow, that there is not half a foot of earth between the wheels of the carriage and the edge of the bank that is washed by the little stream; while the delicious glimpses of the Danube are occasionally visible between the trunks of the tall trees that fringe the intervening islet.

About a quarter of a mile onward stands a crucifix, the first symbol that we had yet remarked of Christianity, and which we hailed as the parched desert-

elcomes the spring whereat he slakes his
ed and withering thirst. It was erected
e shadow of a fine old beech tree, and
y beside a crazy bridge flung across the
a mountain torrent. The scene increased
s we proceeded. The great variety of tint
forest foliage heightened the effect of the
and I have rarely, if ever, seen a more
cality than that through which we travelled

Nature had poured forth her treasures
asparing liberality; and every mountain
spot that a painter would have loved to

ed through one straggling village, built,
which we had landed, of timber and mud,
stopped for a few moments to procure a
er; and I was agreeably impressed by the
ease with which the request was met. A
the road proving too steep to enable the
drag us to the summit of the rise along
ad to pass, we descended from the carriage,
d our way on foot; when we were much
he appearance of the soil, impregnated as
rongly with metallic particles, that it had
nce of diamond dust. I collected several
f ore that were truly beautiful; and I have
even from my own very slight geological
that a scientific person might find ample
t within a couple of miles of Orsova for at
y months.

CHAPTER XX.

Orsova — Castle of the Pass — Turkish Guard — Quarantine Ground—Village of Tekia—Awkward Mistake—Pretty Woman —Gay Dress—A Visitor—Servian Cottagers—A Discovery— Departure—A Volunteer—Receiving House—A Forced March —The Graveyard—The Quarantine—A Welcome to Captivity —A Verbal Coinage—Pleasant Quarters—M. le Directeur— The Restaurant—Pleasant Announcement—Paternal Care of the Austrian Authorities—The Health Inventory—The Guardsman's Sword—Medical Visits—Intellectual Amusements—A Friendly Warning.

We reached Orsova after a drive of about three hours; and passed through the court of the castle that guards the pass on the Servian side, and which must have been of great strength when in repair. A buttressed tower, perforated from its base to its summit with loop-holes for musketry, occupies the side of the hill immediately above the fort; and the site of this stronghold is so cunningly chosen, that it is invisible from the Viennese side of the river until you come close upon it, owing to its being built in a gorge between two boldly projecting rocks. A couple of Turks, armed to the teeth, were lounging at the outer gate, who uttered a courteous "Bouroum" as we passed the archway; while a man, stationed on the roof of the tower, gave out a wild shrill cry, evidently intended as a signal.

The town and fortress of Orsova occupy an island of considerable length, and have a very picturesque

, the gleaming minaret of the solitary
e gracefully against the particoloured
clothes the hills by which it is over-
and the castellated and buttressed wall of
flecting itself in the river tide. Much of
ow in ruin, although it may still be traced
ng the bank. The island was fortified by
s, but was afterwards ceded to the Turks,
a the fortress of Belgrade, by the Emperor

point we could distinguish the quaran-
ament, niched in at the foot of the Bannat
and distant from the town of Alt Orsova
. But we were obliged to overshoot it by
a league, from the fact of there being no
re until we reached the village of Tekia,
he river side, whence the embarkations of
ned" universally take place.
considerably outtravelled our companions
ained with the luggage waggons, we re-
alt them here; and the gentlemen having
hat they supposed to be a coffee kiosque,
illed myself of the cool, clean apartment
ey summoned me; and the more readily
welcomed on the threshold by one of the
men imaginable. She must have been
on; and she had all the bloom of youth,
th all the grace of womanhood.
eady remarked on the erect carriage of the
ales; and our new acquaintance was no
om the rest of her countrywomen. Her
ir were dazzlingly dark and bright; and
vely glow upon her cheek that told a tale
l happiness. Her rich tresses were wound
ead, above a small Smyrniote fez, with a
l of purple silk; and the smooth braids
her fair young brow were partly shrouded

beneath a painted muslin handkerchief. violet silk was made precisely like those stantinopolitan Jewesses, and girt about a girdle of pale yellow; and above it she of pink muslin embroidered with gold, her bosom; and a jacket of wadded green wide sleeves; stockings she had none, but shrouded in purple slippers; and altogeth pleasant a specimen of Servian beauty as desire to look upon.

As we were self-deluded into the convic were in a coffee kiosque, and as we w severely from heat and thirst, we unhesitati coffee and wine, which were instantly brou which our pretty hostess added sweetmeat presented by herself with a blush and quite verified the sentiment of the old says:—

"If woman be but fair,
She has the gift to know it."

We were shortly joined by an imposi personage, clad in a richly furred and jacket and greaves of bright scarlet, who s in the midst of us, called for wine, replenis and made himself so thoroughly at home the pretty hostess chanced to leave the inquired whether she were his daughter, e the same time our admiration of her bea not without some surprise that we learne plain middle aged individual to whom w ourselves, that the young beauty was hi moreover the adopted daughter of Prince had bestowed her upon him in marriage, his peculiar regard. He did not appear annoyed by the glances of unequivocal which the gentlemen, who had so long

land of lattices and *yashmacs*, could not refrain from turning on her as she moved among them busied in the offices of hospitality; and treated her rather as a spoiled child, than as the partner of his fortunes.

A tour of the village being proposed by one of the party, we started on an exploring expedition, but met with nothing particularly interesting. The peasantry were remarkably respectful and courteous, every one rising as we approached their cottage door, and saluting us with a smile of perfect good humour; while we won the hearts of the mothers by dividing among the numerous children who were sporting on all sides, a collection of copper coins made during the journey, of which we knew neither the names nor the value. They were a plain race, coarsely formed, and universally disfigured by feet of an unwieldy size; but, nevertheless, the women all carried themselves like empresses; and their glittering head-dresses, and large silver earrings, rendered their appearance almost attractive.

When the rest of our caravan arrived, we discovered the error into which we had been betrayed by our ignorance of the locality; being informed by the agent who had accompanied us from Scala Glavoda, in order to deliver us up to the quarantine authorities, that we were the guests of the chief man of the village; to whom it was utterly impossible that we could offer any remuneration for all the trouble that we had given in his house. Such being the case, we could only overwhelm him with acknowledgments and compliments; with which he was so well satisfied, that he declared his intention of accompanying us down the river as far as the station at which we were to land, in order to proceed on foot to our temporary prison.

When the large flat-bottomed barge in which we were to be conveyed thither was freighted with our packages, and that we were about to push off, we were detained for an instant by the declaration of the little

Servian beauty that she had determined to be party; and on board she accordingly came, flung over her house costume a magnificent pel grey cloth, edged with sable, and worked with g

In half an hour we reached a long wooden built as a receiving house for the quarantine; and we were detained until our patience was fairly outw and that our hunger had become positively pain A double partition of wood parted us from the auth rities, who graciously welcomed us to the horrors incarceration; and we were obliged to seat ourselv on the luggage, and await the arrival of the bullo carriages that were to convey our travelling gear to it destination.

All was at last accomplished; and, after taking leave of our pretty Servian companion, who laughed heartily at my pressing invitation to her to share our imprisonment, we followed the train of waggons; the rear of the party being brought up by an Austrian soldier, armed with a loaded musket and a fixed bayonet. We were, however, in no mood to yield to gloomy ideas or feelings. We had a blue sky above us, a fine turf beneath our feet, and the prospect of another half hour of comparative liberty; and we were straggling gaily about the plain, laughing and speculating on our approaching imprisonment, when we were called to order by the guard, and compelled to keep to the high road, lest we should contaminate the grass and thistles among which we were wandering.

Before we reached the quarantine ground, we passed the grave-yard destined to receive those who die of plague during their incarceration. It was closely fenced; and rendered still more gloomy by a tall crucifix, painted red, and supporting a most revolting effigy of our Lord.

On ringing a bell, the great gates of the establishment were flung "hospitably" back, and we were

requested to allow the waggons to enter before us, lest we should contaminate the oxen by our contact; and, after passing through a couple of walled yards, surrounded by warehouses for receiving merchandize, we entered a third enclosure, wherein we were met by the governor and surgeon, who, keeping at a respectful distance, invited us to enter a dark, white-washed, iron-grated cell, in order to have our passports examined.

A wooden lattice separated us from our new hosts; and the peasant who had conducted us from the river side stood in front of a small opening made for the purpose, and held at arm's length the papers which were demanded. Much bowing and scraping ensued between M. le Directeur, the foreign nobleman, and the Hungarian Chevalier; and we had reason to congratulate ourselves on their companionship, as it produced a visible degree of courtesy on the part of the local authorities: a courtesy which did not, however, exempt us from the "locks, bolts, and bars" of the Lazaretto. As I was only the second lady who had been unfortunate enough to come under his keeping, the governor very politely resolved to commence his arrangements by providing me with as good a cell as he had then vacant; not that he called the space into which he was about to consign me, a *cachot;* by no means—the word "cell" being somewhat grating, another term has been invented; and the dens of the Lazaretto of Orsova are designated *colleves*, which signifies—nothing.

But before we could take possession of our prison, another gate had yet to be unlocked, which admitted us into a large space enclosed within a high wall, and containing the *élite* of the accommodations. The cells, like those of a madhouse in Turkey, were built round the four sides of a garden; and each had a small entrance court, paved with stone. As none of the build-

ings were capacious enough to contain our whole party, it was at length arranged that five of us should take one of them, in which we might make such arrangements as we preferred; and that the three others should be accommodated as near to us as possible. Upon which understanding, M. le Directeur, a plump, good-natured looking little old man, with a bit of soiled red ribbon displayed in the button hole of a threadbare gray frock-coat, a ruffled shirt, and the funniest of all forage caps, led the way to a cell, or I should rather say *colleu*, No. 2; and when one of his followers had unlocked the yellow and black gate of the court, he bowed ceremoniously to me, as he pointed to two melancholy looking trees, which had contrived to exist amid the rude paving, and exclaimed with a tone and gesture perfectly dramatic: *"Soyez la bien-venue, Madame; voyez les beaux arbres que vous avez!"*

It was extremely fortunate that the day chanced to be one of cloudless sunshine, and that we consequently saw every thing under its most favourable aspect; for there was nothing particularly exhilarating in the interior of the buildings. Windows both barred and grated; walls whitewashed and weather-stained; chairs, tables, and sofa, all of wood, which is a "non-conductor," and whitewashed like the walls; were the only objects that met our eyes. But as we were all both tired and hungry, we welcomed even these; and only begged to learn where we must address ourselves, in order to procure some food with as little delay as possible.

This brought us to the second feature of our position; for a window, whose shutter was padlocked up, was unfastened; a bell was rung, and at a casement grated like our own appeared the restaurateur of the Lazaretto to receive his instructions. Dinner was instantly ordered; bread and wine were speedily procured; and we were waited upon by a very gaily-dressed, conceited

individual, who announced himself to be "our keeper;" a piece of intelligence which once more carried back my thoughts to the *Timerhazès*, or madhouses of Constantinople; and I began half to apprehend that we had indeed intruded into one of those melancholy establishments. At five o'clock we were furnished with a very bad dinner; bedding was brought in; and at sunset we were locked up.

On the morrow we were somewhat disconcerted to learn that the court of the *colleve* was to be our boundary during the ten days of our imprisonment; and our officious "keeper" very carefully locked the gate every time that he thought proper to make his escape. But this was a trifling annoyance to that by which it was succeeded; and which consisted of an announcement that at mid-day the surgeon of the Lazaretto, and the examining officer, would visit us, in order to take an inventory of every thing in our possession. Each trunk, portmanteau, and basket, was to be unpacked; in short, we were even to declare the contents of our purses!

We were already aware that the Austrian was the most paternal of all governments; taking an interest in the private affairs, not only of its own subjects, but also in those of strangers; yet I confess that for such a proceeding as the present we were totally unprepared.

There was, however, no remedy: and the "secret recesses" of every package were laid bare before the "authorities." The reason given for this inconvenient and revolting stretch of power is the desire of the government that, in the event of a decease, the friends of the dead person may receive every part of his property upon demand; the inventory held by the proper officers effectually prevented the keeper of the *colleve* from plundering the trunks; but certain little circumstances which we remarked during the investigation rather

tended to weaken our faith in the disinterestedn
the arrangement.

When the possession of any Turkish article was
tioned, there was a visible excitement. Even a last
exhibited by my father was entered on the list; and
number of chibouque-tubes, of tobacco purses,
other trifles, which could have been of no value to
survivors of a deceased person, were registered wi
equal exactness.

In my own case they were peculiarly inquisitive
counting my rings, and recording my bracelets and
necklaces. Not a pocket-handkerchief, nor a waist-
ribbon escaped: and I was more than once asked if I
had really exhibited the whole of my wardrobe. My
books and drawings were seized without ceremony,
and carried off to be examined by the proper officer;
and the worthy functionaries at length departed in
full possession of all which related to our peripatetic
properties.

It required a couple of hours to soften down the
"chafed humours" of the gentlemen of the party;
which were not rendered more gentle by the demand
of the keeper, that they should deliver up all their
arms, of whatever description they might be; on the
understanding that they were to be restored to them
on the day of their own delivery. But the request did
not meet with the ready acquiescence which had been
anticipated. Colonel —— had travelled with the whole
of his uniform; and when our attendant advanced to
lay sacrilegious hands upon his sword, which was hang-
ing over a chair, all the quick sense of honour of the
British soldier was roused at once; and, as the indig-
nant blood rushed to his brow, he vowed that he would
fell to the earth the first man who dared to meddle
with his side-arms. In vain did the keeper insist, and
the chevalier explain; the English heart beat too high
to heed either the one or the other: and the pistol-

laden functionary was obliged to depart without the sword of the gallant guardsman. Of course he made his report to the governor; but the worthy little old gentleman had too much good sense to persist in the demand; and no allusion was afterwards made to the subject.

Twice each day we were visited by the medical officer, who just popped his head into the door, and smiled forth: "Ah! quite well, quite well, I see; impossible to be better; good morning," and away he went, without affording us time to complain had we been so inclined. M. le Directeur also paid us several visits, always carefully pointing his cane before him, as a warning to us not to approach him too closely; and never failing to commence the conversation by the ejaculation of, "*Madame, je vous salue—ha! les beaux arbres que vous avez!*" It was really worse than ludicrous.

As a signal mark of favour, we were occasionally permitted to walk, under the charge of the keeper, from the gate of our own *colleve*-court to that of our friends, and to receive their visits in return, when we had always a very laughable interview; the incarcerated individuals amusing themselves by rocking to and fro behind the bars of their prison-gates, and roaring like wild beasts in a menagerie.

There are two descriptions of persons to whom I would particularly recommend an avoidance of the quarantine at Orsova—the *ennuyé* and the *bon-vivant*. For the first there is no refuge save sleep, and the few doggrel attempts at poetry which may be partially traced through the whitewash; the outpourings of an impatient spirit weary of its thrall; with the occasional society of the "keeper," who is as cold and as impracticable as his own keys. The very books of which the wanderer has made his travelling companions; and some of which would bear a second perusal, at all

events in a quarantine cell, are carried off and sealed up, as though every volume were redolent of high treason; and he is left to his own resources as ruthlessly as if he were indeed "the last man;" and that he had done with the world, and the world with him.

To the second, I need only hint that the *restaurant* is a government monopoly, where you are provided for at a fixed sum per day; and fed upon whatever it may please the comptroller of the kitchen to serve up. Nor can you procure any wine save the sour and unpalatable *vin du pays*, however liberally you may be disposed to pay for it.

Those travellers are fortunate who, like ourselves, can meet the captivity of quarantine with pleasant companions, light hearts, and unfailing spirits; finding food for mirth in their very miseries; and forgetting the annoyance of present detention in the anticipation of future freedom.

CHAPTER XXI.

The Last Day of Captivity — Quarantine Enclosure — Baths of Mahadia—Landscape Scenery—Peasantry of Hungary—Their Costume—Trajan's Road—Hungarian Village—The Mountain Pass—The Baths—A Disappointment — The Health-Inventory —Inland Journey—New Road.

THE last day of our captivity was the most tedious portion of the whole, for the prospect of speedy emancipation kept us in a constant state of irritation. Our luggage was collected and arranged with a haste which by no means added to its comfort or convenience, and which only left us an additional hour of unoccupied restlessness; while the servants were urged to a continual commotion that robbed us even of the tranquillity which might have made our prison-house somewhat more endurable.

The morning of the fifteenth of October was that of our release. We were all ready to depart at daybreak; and, after the necessary ceremonies had been gone through, we assembled in a large grassy space, bounded on one side by the Danube, and skirted on the other by the quarantine buildings. This enclosure was crowded with oxen, waggons, and bales of merchandize; and about fifty peasants were employed in lading such goods as were admitted to *pratique*, after their period of purification had been accomplished. Here we also found carriages for hire, two of which we immediately engaged to convey some of our party to the celebrated baths of Mahadia; which, being situated off

calèche, drawn by a trio of wiry
ponies, harnessed in the most
world, with bridles, traces. and
while the others mounted one o
filled with hay, and dragged by
ing horses.

Never was there a more sin
gratulation than that with whic
dary gate of the quarantine gr
selves beside the tall stone cros
outskirt, as if to claim the than
liberated. We had majestic hil
side us, clothed with forest-tir
thousand hues of autumn; th
would, for the sake of my landsc
say *sparkling*, in the sunshine
Danube throughout its entire le
dirt; and the beam must be
which can lend a brightness to l
that had during the night beer
tops, or had cinctured them wi
just beginning to roll back bene
sun, which was rising like a gold
of the faintest pink, and as th

pruning our wings for a fresh flight. Ten days of pineas go by like an Eastern twilight, or the do the thistle; but ten days of quarantine, ten d wood and whitewash, of locks and bolts, of and weariness! No one who has not passed ten d a *colleve*, and its narrow court, can understand delight of the first bound back to freedom.

There is one of Sir Walter Scott's ballads from my earliest girlhood I have always loved; touched my heart by its plaintiveness, but in the q tine of Orsova I learned to value it still more surpassing nature; its masterly delineation of th ings of the human mind under captivity; the cap not of despair, but of impatience; the wail bounding spirit held back; and often, very oft I paced up and down the paved court of our p prison, did I murmur out my own irritation words of the Mighty One of song:—

> "My hawk is tired of perch and hood,
> My idle greyhound loathes his food,
> My horse is weary of his stall,
> And I am sick of captive thrall."

But even had we looked on the peasantry of gary at a less joyous moment, we could not have to be struck with their extremely picturesque co The men were dressed like those of Servia, even ungainly sandal of untanned leather, laced a short stocking of checked worsted; though among them had discarded the rude conical sheepskin, for one neatly made of white flann bound with black ribbon, which had a very and smart appearance; but the women were in tume which would have produced its effect at ball. Like the maidens of Scotland, the youn wore their hair simply bound by a silken snoo which they had stuck marigolds or wild roses;

white cowries.

Herein alone existed any dis
the oldest matron and the you
ments varying only in the richn
chemisette of white linen reach
it was confined by a band wo
steds, continued down the front
the tops of the large, full ske
waist with two woollen aprons
but falling only to the knee; w
a deep fringe of the same colo
scended to the ankle. Some
unsightly sandals as those of
principally barefooted.

The Hungarian peasantry,
are all soldiers when their se
resume their agricultural and
diately that the necessity has
they are all erect, and smart-lo
a remarkably fine race of men,
striking. Of the women I ca
much, as they are, generally sp
flat features, and expressionle
were, however, several startl
know not whether in such cas
trinsic degree of beauty posse
and that in a land of plain wo
the few all that she has withh
that the dearth of good looks i

stranger involuntarily to heighten to hin
the few; but it is certain that I saw in I
thought at the time, half a dozen of the
imaginable.

We had left Orsova only a few mile
when, descending a short but precipitous
entered upon a road skirting the moun
the one hand, and bounded on the other
a torrent, whose waters, now in a state of
repose, brawled over the masses of rock
their own violence had cumbered the cl
the winter storms, and ran dancing in
their course was further impeded by the
of the peasantry; and, after forming a the
cascades, fell flashing back into the d
ravine, to form a mirror for the overhang

Another hour of rapid travelling brou
ruins of Trajan's road. Six of the arches,
the solid rock, still remain nearly perfec
this stupendous work may be traced for
as well as the massy fragments of a brid
torrent.

A lovely valley succeeded, hemmed in
dotted over with little villages, seated on
the mountain stream; looking, from the
mation of their small reed-thatched huts,
apiaries. Every narrow shelf of rock t
redeemed from the forest, for such the
heights (gigantic as they were), may liter
was in a high state of cultivation. Pate
corn, flourishing vineyards, green pastu
thriving orchards, were to be seen on all
the effects of the flitting light upon
touched timber were so magical, so va
brilliant, that words are inadequate to
Here and there, among stretches of fol
from the faint silvery green of the river

the white lining of the aspen leaf, to the bright gold of the decaying beech, and the rich brown of the withering oak, stood out a huge mass of bare calcareous rock; looking like a giant portal closed upon the hidden treasures of the mountain's heart. And amid all these glorious hills, this jewel-like foliage, and these flashing waters, we travelled on with the speed of lightning, through an avenue of fruit trees several miles in length.

A second stretch of the mountain road conducted us to a spot where a descent had been made to the bed of the torrent; and here, leaving the direct line to the town of Mahadia, we forded the stream, and struck into a by-way, which, traversing a dense wood, led immediately to the baths. It is but an exchange of beauty. And, as we entered the gorge of two stately mountains draped in forest foliage, and lifting to the sky their high and leafy heads; and saw the eagles soaring above them in majestic security, while flowers bloomed beside our path, and small birds twittered among the branches; while the sound of the shepherd's reed pipe came sweeping down into the valley from the giddy heights on which his flock were browsing; and the luxurious cattle standing mid way in the stream, lowed out their enjoyment to their fellows, as if to lure them from the mountain glades amid which they were wandering; I thought that I had never traversed a country so lovely as this corner of Hungary. I would not have missed that morning landscape for another term of quarantine!

We were quite unprepared for the scene that awaited us at the baths. The gorge in which they are built is so narrow that the rocks on either side almost overhang the houses; and the torrent rushes brawling along at their base, fed by continual springs. The establishment, which is becoming every year more popular, is on a very large and handsome scale; and the whole

aspect of the place is so enchanting, so bright, so calm, and so delightful, that, could we have woven the web of our day to a week's duration, I am quite sure that not one of our party would have wearied of it.

The baths are of Roman origin; and in the wall of one of the principal apartments a stone is imbedded which still bears most legibly the following inscription: "To Venus, Mercury, and Hercules, these springs, conducive to beauty, activity, and strength, are dedicated." They are strongly impregnated with sulphur, and produce on a first trial extreme and almost painful exhaustion; but they are considered to be so very efficacious, particularly in chronic diseases, that the government have erected an invalid hospital and bathing house at the extremity of the mountain, for the use of the troops.

We partook of an excellent dinner at the Table d'Hôte on leaving the baths; and, greatly to our regret, were then compelled to retrace our steps, in order to reach Orsova before dusk. But we had already lingered too long; and, on arriving in the court of the hotel where the post waggons were awaiting us, we were met by the declaration of the drivers that they would not stir until daylight; the road to Drinkova being cut along the brink of the mountain precipices, and so slightly protected as to be even dangerous at noonday.

We were, one and all, extremely annoyed at their decision, not knowing if we could afford a loss of time on which we had not calculated; and we almost began to ask ourselves whether the more incurious portion of the party, who had quietly mounted the luggage-waggons at the quarantine gate, and pursued their direct road to the steam station, had not been also the most prudent. For myself, despite the fatigue that I had undergone during the day, and the enervating effect of the sulphuric bath, I had so nerved myself for the night journey, that I was sincerely

disappointed when assured that it was quite impracticable; but, as there was no alternative, we resolved on retiring early to our apartments, whose cleanliness and comfort were enhanced tenfold in our eyes by our recent endurance of the disarray and desolation of the quarantine cells.

We were, however, obliged, ere we parted for the night, to receive the agent of the steam company, and two officers of the Austrian customs, who, for "a consideration," returned our books carefully sewed up in linen, and sealed with the government stamp in lead, accompanied by an injunction not to remove it until we had passed the Austrian frontier. We next paid a duty for the Turkish articles we had brought with us, and which they did not trouble us to enumerate; as, thanks to the "health inventory" taken at the Lazaretto, they were thoroughly acquainted with the extent of our possessions.

The official train had no sooner departed, than we busied ourselves in superintending the arrangement of the provisions that were to accompany us on the morrow's journey; nothing edible, save Indian corn bread, being purchasable between the town of Orsova and the station of the steam boat.

Few circumstances can be more provoking than the necessity which exists of abandoning the course of the river at this particular point; as the scenery for several successive miles is of the most majestic and striking description. Piles of rock hem in the current, and almost overhang it; caverns, hollowed by some fearful convulsion of nature, tempt the venturous foot of the curious traveller; and far-spreading forests, sweeping away into the distance, fringe the summits of the mountains, and cast their deep shadows over the river tide.

Superadded to this disappointment, is the increase of fatigue consequent on the compulsatory *détour*;

the distance occupied by the shoal being more than doubled by the overland journey that is made across the loftiest of the Bannat mountains, and performed in the country carriages (the basket work waggons already mentioned), which, although so lightly constructed as to travel very rapidly, yet, being without springs, are extremely fatiguing.

To obviate this inconvenience, the Steam Company have commenced the construction of a road at the foot of the mountain chain, the whole length of the shoal; and it was progressing rapidly at the period of our visit, under the auspices of the Austrian government.* The necessary outlay was said to be very great, owing to the difficult nature of the locality, and the labour of penetrating the living rock. An entire mile of this singular undertaking was already completed; and really afforded an extraordinary proof of the effects producable by human ingenuity and perseverance. In particular spots it is entirely artificial; and is a solid stretch of masonry based on the bed of the river; in others, it hangs on the side of the mountain like a goat path; and at others, again, it is a tunnel, walled and roofed with rock, and torn from the heart of the mighty mass by blasting.

This road is intended to facilitate the passage of travellers and merchandize from one steam vessel to the other, by means of flat-bottomed boats, to be towed by horses along the hitherto impassable portion of the river—an arrangement which will supersede the necessity of abandoning the direct line; and save the traveller the expense, fatigue, and inconvenience of the inland journey.

* Since our return to England, we have learned that, for political reasons, the Austrian Government have withdrawn, or at least suspended, their assistance to this undertaking; as well as discountenanced the formation of the canals destined to perfect the navigation of the Danube.

CHAPTER XXII.

Departure from Orsova—Daybreak—The Mountain Pass—Village of Plauwischewitza—Austrian Engineers—Literary Popularity—The Rapids—Sunday in Hungary—Drinkova—Holiday Groups—Alibec—Voilovitch—Panchova—River Shoals—Wild Fowl—Semlin—Fortress of Belgrade—Streets of Semlin—Greek Church—Castle of Hunyady—Imperial Barge—Agreeable Escort—Yusuf Pacha—Belgrade—Prince Milosch—Plague Preventers—General Milosch—Servian Ladies—Turk Town—Ruined Dwellings—The Fortress—Osman Bey—Gate of the Tower—Fearless Tower—Rapid Decay of the Fortifications—Sclavonian Garden—Vintage Feast—Sclavonian Vintage Song.

At four o'clock the following morning we left Orsova, lighted by a perfect galaxy of stars; but shivering from the damp vapours which were hanging in dense folds about the Danube. The light was just breaking as we reached the foot of the mountains, and began to ascend a precipitous road, slightly guarded on the outer edge by a wooden railing; whence we looked down into rifts and chasms filled with the most profuse foliage; at whose bottom ran the pigmy streams, which in the winter season swell to torrents, and awake the depths of the forest fastnesses with their brawling voices.

It is impossible to give the faintest picture of this mountain pass, with its bridges of rude timber flung over almost unfathomable gulfs; its bold, overhanging paths, along which the narrow wheels have scarcely space to pass; its dense masses of forest foliage, linked

together by the graceful wreaths of the wild vine w
its blood-red leaves, and the clinging tendrils of t
wild cotton plant with its snowy tufts of down;
herds of cattle; its flocks of goats; and its green gra
glades, laughing in the sunshine; its ever-recurri
effects of light and shade; its mysterious silence; a
its surpassing majesty.

As we travelled on, the day-beam grew brighter
the heavens, and the horizon became one rich canc
of pink and violet. There were moments when I v
breathless with awe as we traversed that leafy solitu
I never thought of danger, even when the half w
animals that drew us were galloping at their great
speed down the mountain side, with a shelf of r
walling us up on the one hand, and a deep precij
yawning over against us on the other. I had not
instant to spare to the possible peril of our positi
I saw only, I felt only, the glory which surroun
me. I could at that moment fully understand w
the mountaineer clung to liberty as to existence—h
he who had once breathed the pure air of heaven fr
the rocky brow on which the clouds of night w
wont to rest, and the sunshine of day to sport, m
pine amid the gloom of the valley, and the monot
of the plain. And when we once more descende
the river's edge, where all was safe and level, I o
felt regret that I could not call back the mystery
the magnificence of the rock-seated forests, e
although there might be peril in their paths.

The road into which we passed at the foot of
mountain-chain led us along fields of Indian corn
the village of Plauwischewitza, where we were c
pelled to remain a couple of hours, in order to rest
horses. It was nine o'clock when we reached it;
as the little hamlet boasted no wine house, at wh
we could satisfy the keen appetite that we had acqu
by four hours of rapid travelling among the mounta

we were preparing to breakfast in one of the
when the Chevalier Peitrich was recogni
officer of Austrian engineers, who immedia
us to a very comfortable house that had bee
himself and his brother officers, during the
tenance of the road to which I have already

We availed ourselves of his politeness m
and were received with the greatest court
whole party, who showed and explained to
beautifully-coloured plans of the Danube, a
projected roads and canals. In their book-ca
Bulwer's "England and the English," and
"Naval Officer," both published by Baudr
It was like meeting old friends in a stran
turn over the leaves of these well-remember
in an obscure Hungarian village!

At eleven o'clock we resumed our jour
lay along the bank of the river, but at a c
height above the water. In one or two
wound round the base of rocks that jutte
bed of the stream, and which were rent a
an extraordinary manner: one mass restin
other, and so apparently insecure as to ap
to loosen their hold with the next blast of
this picturesque route we passed the rapids
a singular ridge of rock extending nearly
river, at a spot where the shores are extr
and beautiful; and at three o'clock in th
we again halted in another small hamlet.

The sixth was a very characteristic, a
Sunday, all the peasants were in th
and were clustered at the doors of the
enjoying the pure air and the genial sunsh
in the intervals of the meals that preside by th
duties of nursing their infants: they ca
box, in shape not unlike a coffin, slung
shoulders, in which the child lies upon

and when the little being requires their care, they sit down upon the first stone or piece of timber in their path, swing the box to their knees, and quietly attend to the wants of their nursling; the suspended cradle is then restored to its original position, and their own occupations are resumed.

On our arrival at the steam station at Drinkova, which is simply a large block of building containing apartments for the resident agent and stores for the housing of merchandise, we learned that, owing to the long drought, the waters had become so low in the Danube that the vessel could not descend beyond Alibec, the next station; and consequently, fatigued as we were with a journey of sixty-five miles in rough carriages over steep roads, we were compelled to continue our route at all speed; and in about twenty minutes we reached the pretty and extensive village of Drinkova, in which we found an Austrian regiment, occupying a commodious barrack in the principal street. We remained here an hour, in order to rest the unfortunate horses, which we were obliged to take on, as there were no means of procuring others; and we started again just as the sun was setting, and throwing fairy lights upon the mountain crests.

Many a gay group did we encounter as we pursued our way, hurrying home to the village after a day of recreation among the hills; and we even passed one party who had lingered so long, that the blaze of the fire that they had kindled in the woods streamed across our path.

At nine o'clock we reached Alibec by the light of a bright young moon, which just disappeared behind the hills as we were hailed from the vessel. At daylight the next morning we were under weigh; and about noon the Francis I. was abreast of the extensive monastery and dependencies of Voilovitch, on the *Hungarian* side of the river; and shortly afterwards

we passed the town of Panchova, seated on the [illegible] which here empties itself into the Danube. A[bout] mile and a half beyond Panchova, we entered a [shoal] and the stream was almost entirely stopped, while [we] glided over the treacherous surface of the stream; [the] boat scarcely appeared to make any way; but there was a slight tremulous motion, that seemed as though her heart still beat, while her progress was impeded.

These shoals, which are by no means without danger even by daylight, are not, however, the only impediment to night travelling on the Danube—the violence of the current, particularly after a gale at sea, frequently carrying away immense masses of the light sandy soil of the islands that are scattered along the whole line of the river; and with them enormous trees, which come sweeping down the stream, with their wide branches spreading on all sides, and choking the passage. We encountered at least a dozen of these uprooted forest giants during our voyage.

In the course of the afternoon we were off Semendri, an extensive Turkish fortress, occupying a very commanding position on the Servian shore, at the junction of the Jesava with the Danube, and defended by twenty-seven towers, of which twenty-three were square, two round, and two hexagonal; but extremely exposed on all sides, and apparently not in the best state of repair.

At sunset we passed a group of islands thickly wooded, principally by river willows, and surrounded by long narrow necks of land, from which the approach of the vessel aroused such a cloud of aquatic birds as I never beheld before in my life. They must have amounted to several thousands; and being wild swans, geese, ducks, and plovers, they filled the air with a discord, to which the monotonous beat of the steam paddles was music. During the whole day we were earnestly talking of Belgrade—the far-famed

fortress of Belgrade—which we were anxious to reach before dusk. It was, however, eight o'clock before we were abreast of this last stronghold of the Turks in Europe; and in half an hour more we anchored at Semlin, where we were to remain the whole of the next day, to take in coals and to embark passengers and merchandise.

On the following morning, immediately after breakfast, we went on shore to see the town; but previously to landing we stood awhile on deck, contemplating the interesting scene around us. The Saave, which here empties itself into the Danube, forms the boundary between the possessions of the Moslem and those of the Christian. On one side its ripple reflects the belfried towers and tall crosses, the walls and dwellings, of the Christian population of Semlin; on the other it mirrors the slender minarets and bristling fortifications of the followers of Mahomet. Barges, filled with water patroles, passed and repassed the vessel; all was activity along the shore of Semlin, while a dead stillness hung over the dark outworks of the opposite bank.

A walk of ten minutes brought us to the gate of Semlin, which terminates a long, wide, clean looking street, forming the main artery of the town. The tide of life was, however, flowing through it sluggishly; a few knots of military, belonging to the Italian regiment by which it was garrisoned, were grouped at distances, or lounged idly along, gazing into the shop windows; but we did not meet half a dozen peasants—a circumstance that was afterwards explained by the fact of our having made our incursion on the day of a great annual market, which had attracted nearly all the inhabitants of the town and the surrounding country to an extensive square at the back of the main street, where we found a dense crowd of horses, waggons, merchandise, busy men, and plain women.

Among its public buildings, Semlin boasts a qua-

rantine establishment, considerably more
than that of Orsova; and also, as we were in
infinitely preferable in point of comfort and
nience. Our curiosity, however, did not tend
direction; and we were quite satisfied with a
the exterior walls.

In our stroll through the airy and well kept st
we visited the Greek church, which was handso
fitted up. The door was opened to us by a magn
cent looking priest, who did the honours with gr
politeness; save that he would not admit me into
sanctuary to examine the enamelled bible which
displayed with great pride to the gentlemen; litt
imagining, holy man! that I had penetrated behin
the veil of the church at the Fanar, and seen the most
costly of all their copies of the sacred writings in the
thrice blessed hands of the patriarch himself!

From the church we ascended a height above the
town, to explore the ruins of the celebrated castle of
Hunyady, the father of Matteas Corvinus, the most
renowned of all Hungarian heroes. It is now rapidly
passing away, to be numbered with the things that
were and are not. It is a square erection, with a
round tower at each angle, and is nowhere left stand-
ing more than ten feet from the level of the earth; but
the walls are extremely massive, measuring nearly
eighteen feet in thickness; and the situation is com-
manding, as the acclivity on which it is built sweeps
the river to a considerable distance on both sides.

Having sauntered through the town, and made a
few purchases, in order to recall to us hereafter our
first ramble in Sclavonia, we returned on board to a
mid-day dinner; the chevalier having assured us that
he possessed sufficient interest with the General com-
manding at Semlin, to secure to us the permission
to visit Belgrade, which, being a Turkish fort, was
unapproachable to the quarantine-cleansed, without

special authority. He had calculated justly; and in the course of the afternoon an Imperial barge put off, with the plague flag flying at her stern, and took us on board, attended by two keepers from the quarantine establishment, and a custom-house officer. Under this cheerful escort we departed for Belgrade, the last minareted town in Europe, and the residence of Yusuf Pasha, who, in the event of hostilities, will probably acquit himself at Belgrade as honourably as he did at Varna.

The position of this extensive fortress is most imposing, seated as it is upon the banks of two noble rivers; its walls being washed on two sides by the Danube, and on a third by the Saave. Its appearance is very formidable, and had it been bestowed upon an European power, it must have proved a dangerous present; but its noble outworks and stately walls are crumbling to decay, and in its present state it is scarcely more than a colossal feature in the landscape.

On the first cession of the fortress of Belgrade to the Turks by the Emperor Leopold, the occupation of the town was reserved exclusively to the Servians, whose Prince, Milosch, has a handsome residence in the principal street; but since the treaty of Unkiar Skelessi, the Osmanlis have poured into the town; and, as the natives resisted the innovation, have formed themselves into a distinct colony which may be called Turk-town, where they live with the Jews in tolerable harmony; a circumstance that, to a person conversant with the Musselmaun prejudice against the outcasts of Israel, is altogether inexplicable. The two people have a population of eight thousand souls, while the Servians average about twelve thousand.

Nothing could be more irksome than our passage through the streets of Belgrade! We landed beside the new custom-house, a large and rather handsome building; and thence passed the gate of the town,

which was guarded by a sentinel who could have been barely fourteen years of age. Just within the barrier stood the guard house, where an officer sat smoking his chibouque, and talking with his men with all the *bon-homie* and laxity of discipline common to the Turks.

It must have been a comedy to see us pass along, all crowded together, and flanked and followed by our vigilant guardians, who, with their long canes, threw aside every fragment of linen, woollen, or paper, that chanced to lie in our path, as well as chasing thence every passenger who happened to cross it. The Turks smiled a quiet smile as we passed them, for they believe all Europeans to be impregnable to the plague, and consequently consider their precautions as the mere result of a love of excitement and bustle; and I confess that to me the extreme watchfulness of our attendants was so irritating that, although it amused me for a time, and that I smiled with the Turks at the pains taken to prevent our contact with the inhabitants of a town in which no plague case had happened during the season, and who had therefore more reason to avoid our own proximity, it finished by making me perfectly nervous.

Thus guarded, and rendered sensible that it is sometimes more troublesome to be out of quarantine than to be in it, we made our way to the residence of the Austrian consul, with whom our friend the chevalier was acquainted, and who joined our party at a respectful distance, having sent his dragoman to request the Pasha's permission for us to visit the interior of the fortress. While we awaited his reply, we determined on accompanying our new and courteous acquaintance to pay a visit to General Milosch, the brother of the Prince, who is a resident in Servia. By the way he pointed out to us the house of the Prince's daughter, who is married to a wealthy brewer, and to whom he

gave a herd of ten thousand oxen as a marriage portion. And, what was infinitely more interesting, the dwelling of Cerny George, a single storied building of large extent, but of most unpretending appearance.

A servant having been despatched to apprise the General of our intended visit, he received us most politely at the door of his house, and conducted us up stairs to a marble hall; being kept at arm's length during the ascent of our plague-preventing keepers; who, having themselves placed a line of chairs for us along one side of the hall, graciously permitted us to be seated. The General, attended by two or three servants, then took possession of a green silk fauteuil at the other extremity of the apartment; and the lady of the house shortly afterwards made her appearance, followed by her eldest daughter; a remarkably fine girl, with a noble forehead, and full dark eyes. The costume of these ladies was extremely elegant and picturesque; confirming an opinion which I had often expressed, that the Greek dress, if carefully arranged, and judiciously chosen as to colours, must be one of the most becoming and effective in the world. Here I saw the realization of my idea; for the small fez, confined by the dark tress of hair, and fastened with a diamond clasp; the pelisse of pale blue satin, lined and edged with sables; and the full robe of silk, delicately embroidered on the bosom and wrists with gold, were all Greek; while the extreme *tenue* and taste of their arrangement, the slight waist, and careful *chaussure*, were essentially Servian.

Nothing could exceed the courteous attention of the whole family. Coffee, pipes, and sweetmeats, were served; and our trusty guardians, satisfied with handing them to us themselves, and thus heroically incurring the risk of becoming the medium of contagion in their own proper persons, allowed us to make use of the silver spoons, although we had been obliged to

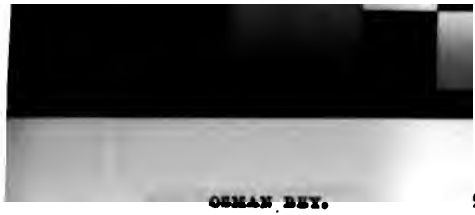
deliver up our money in the quarantine in order that it might be washed by the keeper—metals being voted plague-conductors at Orsova, though they were admitted to *pratique* at Belgrade!

The permission of the Pasha to our entrance into the fortress was not so readily accorded as had been anticipated; and we were accordingly detained nearly an hour ere it arrived. It came, however, at last; and, after taking leave of the interesting family who had so hospitably received us, we once more set forth, traversing a considerable portion of the Servian town, in order to reach the glacis; when, diverging a little from our direct route, we ascended one of the outworks, in order to look down upon the Turk quarter and the shores of the river.

Hence we had a lovely view of Semlin, and of a portion of the extensive Hungarian plain, which, studded with villages and masses of forest timber, extends for a distance of six and thirty leagues. In Turk-town the Consul pointed out to us the ruins of several fine buildings erected by the Austrians; and, amongst others, the remains of the residence of Prince Eugene.

Descending the outwork, whence we had a perfect insight into the dilapidated state of the exterior walls and bastions of the once lordly fortress, we proceeded to the gate, and, having passed it, were obliged to progress for a considerable distance along the palisade, ere we reached the bridge by which we were to enter the fort. The palisades were in melancholy keeping with the rest of the defences; and traces of fire were perceptible on the few that still remained erect.

The interior of this celebrated stronghold did not belie its promise from without. A *ci-devant* barrack had a stunted minaret built against its wall, and was converted into a very dilapidated-looking mosque. The citadel, now denominated the palace of the Pasha



had much the appearance of a barn, weather-stain
and neglected, with broken windows and swingi
shutters. The kiosque of the harem was a tempora
wooden building; pitched, and repaired with u
painted timber. And had I been on my way *to* Co
Constinople instead of *from* it, my preconceived a
highly wrought ideas of Oriental splendour would ha
inevitably suffered utter prostration at the sight
this "princely" establishment.

The fortress of Belgrade, which is the most extensi
as well as the strongest military position possessed
the Turks, is garrisoned only by four hundred men,
rather men and boys, for a portion of them are me
youths; and when to this fact is added another st
more startling, that since it passed into the hands
its present masters all the cisterns have been suffer
to fall into utter decay, and that the whole of t
water necessary for the supply of the inhabitants
carried into the fort daily in carts, it will be seen
once that a future "Siege of Belgrade" would be
bloodless one, as the garrison must inevitably be starv
out by drought.

I must not, however, omit to mention, that t
gentlemen of our party were much struck by the ve
soldier-like and efficient manner in which the troo
(if thus I may be permitted to designate the me
handful of men collected in the drilling ground) we
performing their exercise; and whom they declar
to excel in precision of movement, and cleanliness
appearance, any Turkish regiment that they had se
in the capital; and to do great credit to the milita
talent of Osman Bey, their Lieutenant-Colonel, wh
as well as Ismael Bey, a subaltern officer in the sa
corps, is a son of the Pasha.

Osman Bey, who is rather a fine looking man, greet
us very politely as we crossed the excise ground,
order to leave the fortress by a handsome gate, abo

whose massy columns are still emblazoned, in *alto relievo*, the arms of Austria, in a shield surrounded by military emblems, and supported by two colossal suits of armour.

Beside the moat that protects this gate stands an hexagonal tower, built by the Turks, and called the "Fearless Tower," from the pertinacity with which they defended it during a siege; and the heroic actions performed in its immediate vicinity by one of their Pachas. This tower, and two or three rude bridges of timber over the moat; a couple of ill-proportioned minarets, and the wooden kiosque attached to the citadel, are the only Turkish erections perceptible. Ruin is rapidly progressing on all sides; the walls are giving way; the ditches are in many places cumbered with the fallen rubbish; the covered ways are laid open; and the guns that yet remain within the weed-grown embrasures are so ill mounted as to be perfectly innoxious.

Such is, at this moment, the condition of the far famed fortress of Belgrade — the boundary fort of Servia—the last spot of European land subject to the sway of the Moslem; and here, as we re-entered our barge to pass to the opposite bank of the Save, whence we were to return to Semlin in the carriage of a friend of the chevalier's, we looked our last on the graceful minarets which indicate the religion of Mahomet, and form so elegant a feature in the Oriental landscape.

Ere we returned on board, we drove to the garden of the Austrian dragoman, whence you are said to command the finest view in the neighbourhood of Semlin; and although the river vapours effectually prevented us, on this occasion, from seeing a hundred yards beyond the spot where we stood, we were amply repaid for the *détour* that we had been induced to make, by the opportunity which it afforded to us of

spending half an hour in one of the most charmir
and well kept gardens imaginable; a great treat at s
times, but doubly agreeable to individuals like ou
selves who had been so long wanderers on the wate
The walks ran through avenues of vines, whose purp
clusters did not invite our touch in vain; and so neat
trained as to form the greenest and most level hedg
that can be imagined; while not a weed nor an u
sightly object was to be seen from one end of t
enclosure to the other. The Selavonians are, indee
considered such proficient gardeners, that forty-fi
out of fifty of those employed in Constantinople are
that nation; and we had consequently been curious
see a gentleman's grounds in their own land, and la
out entirely in their own manner.

We were about to re-enter the carriage, in order
return to the vessel, when a flight of rockets ran shim
mering along the sky; and immediately afterwards w
were overtaken by a procession of peasants celebratin
the last day of the vintage.

It was one of the prettiest sights that I ever remem
ber to have seen. The train was headed by abou
thirty youths dressed in white garments, and wearin
large flapping hats of black felt, nearly similar to th
sombreros of Spain, into whose narrow bands they ha
wreathed bunches of wild flowers; each carrying acros
his shoulder a long pliant pole, with a basket pile
with grapes at each extremity. These were followe
by as many young girls, in the usual picturesqu
costume of the country, with a profusion of marigol
fastened among their dark tresses; walking two an
two, and bearing baskets of grapes between them
And the procession terminated with a crowd of chil
dren waving in their little hands long branches of th
vine; and lending their clear and joyous voices to th
wild chorus of the vintage song that their elders wer
pealing out; and which ran, as nearly as I can rend

Around the oak t
Its glittering wre
But it pays not b
No gold it wins,
It may flaunt its
We have no time
Ours is the Vine
We seek, and fin

The wild-vine spi
By every wind ar
But it sickens so
That rests on its
Let it joy awhile
A lovely trifle to
Ours is the Vine
Gems with its fr

Ours is the Vine!
Ours is the soure
Flowers may be
Streams may be
But dearer to us
Which our cluste
Of purple and go
Ours is the Vine

CHAPTER XXIII.

arlowitz — Peterwarradin — Bridge of Boats — Neusatz — Journey of Life—The Chevalier Peitrich—Austrian Offic The Hungarian Poet—Illok—The Ancient Syrmium—Peel'l —Intense Cold — Flat Shores — Mohasch—Foldvar—Pe German Postilion—A Few Last Words.

EARLY on the morrow we were off Carlowitz, a ca ral town beautifully situated; of which, owing t brupt windings of the river, we had two distinct vi The cathedral is a handsome edifice, with two light raceful spires; having from a distance very muc ppearance of minarets. The prevailing religion he Sclavonian shore of the Danube is that of reek Church, which has also obtained consi bly in Hungary; but the Roman Catholic worsh o be found every where along its banks. Carlo ontains about twelve thousand inhabitants; an hore was crowded with passage and fishing boats, w he whole height beneath which it is built was ered with vineyards and orchards, in the f tate of cultivation; the latter being principally c osed of trees bearing a small blue plum, used i istillation of brandy; which, we were told, wa very fine quality. A short distance beyond ity, the tributary river Thuss empties itself int Danube; offering extraordinary facilities for ransport of produce, in the very heart of a rich rolific country.

f the river immediately after leaving
t us within sight of Peterwarradin,
with strong and extensive outworks;
greatly resembling Belgrade. It is
e thousand Austrian troops; and on
o the height on which it is seated,
nains of an outwork, on an island in
ver, that has been abandoned, owing
uction by the ice; the outlay neces-
s efficiency having been considered
bable utility was thought to warrant.
sweep of the Danube, which winds
it the hill-seated fortress, disclosed
of boats that links Peterwarradin
heerful-looking town containing six
ere the Francis I. fired her three
she passed on to the wooden pier
take on board her new passengers;
ur regret, to land our courtly and
chevalier, whose estate was situated
es of the river.

resembles a long life: friends and
n you on all sides as you advance:
in company more tardily, generally
void occasioned by the loss of the
known. Both in the one and the
rward with high hopes and unex-
and you lend yourself readily to the
those among whom your fate has
as you become accustomed to the
, and learn by experience the wan-
ering incident to your pilgrimage
h the same joyousness to greet the
o joins your company. You may
him your loaf of bread and your
out the heart no longer goes forth
ningle in the gift.

rill the Chevalier Peitrich live in the memory
rty with whom he travelled up the Danube,
red the captivity of the quarantine. He did
ours of his country so gracefully and so gra-
—his patience and his politeness were so untiring
e was in himself so agreeable and intelligent a
ion, that the greatest deprivation which we had
alled upon to suffer since our departure from
ntinople was that of his society.

influx of passengers from Neusatz was consider-
and for the first time since I left the Bosphorus,
d myself compelled to share the aftercabin with
adies; while the gentlemen's party was increased
lf a dozen young Austrian officers on their way to
r quarter; all very noisy, and very good natured;
smokers, great talkers, and great card players;
as many civilians, among whom was a lame,
violent-looking, elderly Hungarian, who spent the
le of his time in reading Horace, and writing
try. With this gentleman I became better ac-
inted, and the rencontre was interesting from the
of his proving to be Dr. Charles Rumey, one of
professors at Gran; and the person who (as he
self informed me) translated for Dr. Bowring the
gyar songs which he versified in English. He was
d enough to transcribe a couple for me also, which
ill possess.

ate in the afternoon we reached Illok, a fine town,
wned by the ruins of a very extensive castle, whose
tellated remains stretch for a considerable distance
ng the brow of the hill. This noble property be-
gs to Il Principe Odescalchi, a descendant of the
hew of Pope Innocent XI., whose family bear the
e of Dukes Odescalchi and Princes of Syrmium;
ancient Syrmium being distant only three miles
m their estates.

At night-fall we passed another ruined pile, appa

rently a peel-tower, perched on an abrupt rock, which had a beautiful effect as the moonlight touched its mouldering walls. Near it stood a small castle, also in ruin, but we could not distinguish more than its outline, owing to the lateness of the hour, and the rapid gathering of the darkness. We anchored for the night at the small town of Vacova, having been seventeen hours under steam.

The following morning we passed three more feudal and picturesque remains; and about noon arrived off the mouth of the Draave, a considerable river dividing Sclavonia from Hungary Proper; and pouring forth its tributary waters in a noble stream to the all absorbing Danube. But the cold was so extreme, and had come upon us so suddenly, that we were unable to keep the deck for any length of time—a circumstance which we regretted the less, however, as both the banks of the river had become flat, swampy, and uninteresting; the beautiful mountains of the Bannat having given place in Hungary to the far-stretching and monotonous plain to which I have already alluded; and the Sclavonian shore being a mere line of sand and marsh willows, with here and there a village scattered along its edge. In the evening at sunset we reached Mohasch, where the coals were wheeled on board by women, while groups of men lounged on the wooden pier watching their labours.

The steam was on at daybreak the following morning, and during the whole day we remained prisoners in the cabin, the cold being so intense as to drive even the sturdiest of the party below. The country continued to present one unvaried flat; and books, pens, and pencils, were in requisition until sunset; when we anchored a little below Földvar, on the Hungarian side of the river, and remained there quietly until the morrow.

The evening of that morrow was to see us at Pesth;

and the transition was so great from the overpowering heats to which we had for so many months been accustomed in the East, to the heavy and clinging damps of the Danube, that we resolved on abandoning the river at that point, and pursuing our journey by post to Vienna—a determination in which we were strengthened by the discovery that there was a detention of six days at Pesth, ere the vessel continued her voyage.

The approach to the city was between an avenue of floating mills, of nearly half a mile in length, producing an extraordinary effect to an unaccustomed eye; and, as the day was falling before we reached it, the myriad lights of the streets were reflected like lines of stars in the river. The situation of Pesth is beautiful; and the town itself well built, cleanly, and cheerful. The Opera House is a handsome pile, and the *artistes* are far from contemptible; the hotels are spacious and comfortable; the palace of the Palatinate is finely seated on an eminence, and in extremely good taste; and there is a *business look* about the inhabitants as they hurry to and fro, which gives an air of animation to the scene essentially European.

A bridge of boats, four hundred yards in length, links the more modern city of Pesth to the ancient Hungarian capital of Budo on the opposite shore, and now called Offen. The hill of Blocksberg on this bank of the Danube is crowned by an observatory; and the gently undulating heights which hem in the town, on the south and east sides, are covered with vineyards, and celebrated for the superior quality of their produce.

We left Pesth in the afternoon, two hours later than we had intended, owing to the difficulties started with regard to our luggage, but these were ultimately overcome by the potent argument with which English travellers generally contrive to carry a point. When we issued from the gate of the *Jägherhorn* in our heavy and lumbering carriage, we were infinitely

ppearance of the postilion, a youth
, who wore a sort of hussar jacket,
le hung about his neck, jack boots,
ocked-hat and feather. We travelled,
rable pace; and, as we bade adieu to
pital, and saw the laughing vineyards
nto the distance, we congratulated
emancipation from the damps and
r-voyage; even purchased as it was
f six-and-thirty hours of German

may now close the Volume. I had
ould rejoice when my task was ended;
I cannot part from the reader who
me in strange lands without a feeling
s I look back upon the pages that
d the scenes that I have sketched, a
t comes over me, as though I were
face of a dead friend. As I traced
her, the images of the past rose up be-
n although the vividity of each was
emained to me; for there was still a
hour weakened it. May I be per-
he melancholy fancy that I have con-
e been as one who watched a death-
to the fast-failing remnant of that
bright, and was soon to pass away.
are ended. The pleasant spell is
y face towards Mecca, and remember
ut the distant landscape is veiled in

is but a memory; the glorious Bos-
y in a dream; the "Sea of Storms"
e roar of its breakers to my ear; and
long in sullen majesty, bathing rock
t and city, in its proud waters; but
tide.

tall houses of a dense city rise
of many voices comes upon the
ck flashes in the guard fire; a
the strangers as they pass; the
s of approaching rest, put forth
nd ere many moments pass, the
under the arched gateway of the
nna.

THE END.